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# LAWS OF ALASKA

1980

**Source**

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**Chapter No.**

161

**AN ACT**

Creating the Alaska Statehood Commission; and providing for an effective date.

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1, LINE 9

Approved by the Governor: July 1, 1980  
Actual Effective Date: July 2, 1980

AN ACT

Creating the Alaska Statehood Commission; and providing for an effective date.

\* Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. The people of Alaska seek reasonable self-control of their lives, land and water, fish and wildlife, and trade and commerce. The legislature finds that the current relationship of the people of Alaska to the United States inhibits the achievement of that goal. The purpose of this Act is to study the status of the people of Alaska within the United States and to recommend appropriate changes to that status.

\* Sec. 2. AS 44.03 is amended by adding new sections to read:

ARTICLE 2. ALASKA STATEHOOD COMMISSION.

Sec. 44.03.100. ALASKA STATEHOOD COMMISSION. The Alaska Statehood Commission is established to study the status of the people of Alaska within the United States and to consider and recommend appropriate changes in the relationship of the people of Alaska to the United States.

Sec. 44.03.110. DUTIES. The commission shall study, review, hold public hearings throughout the state, and report to the legislature and to the people of the state on

(1) progress made in implementing the Alaska Statehood Act and the likely nature of its implementation in the future;

(2) recent experiences of other states and peoples under the American flag in their relationships with the United States;

(3) the structures of foreign federations, including their methods for changing forms of association;

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1 (4) alternative forms of association possible between the  
2 people of Alaska and the United States;

3 (5) the legal basis for new forms of association between the  
4 people of Alaska and the United States, including amendments to the  
5 constitutions of the United States or of the State of Alaska;

6 (6) other matters the commission considers germane to its  
7 purpose.

8 Sec. 44.03.120. CONVENING THE COMMISSION. (a) The commission may  
9 not meet until a call to convene has been issued by the governor.

10 (b) The call issued by the governor shall state the place and time  
11 for convening the commission but may not limit the duration or scope of  
12 the duties or powers of the commission.

13 Sec. 44.03.130. MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS. (a) The commission  
14 consists of 11 members appointed under this section.

15 (b) Five members of the commission shall be appointed by the  
16 governor.

17 (c) Two members shall be appointed by the president of the senate,  
18 two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
19 representatives, and two members shall be appointed by the legislative  
20 council.

21 (d) The presiding officer of the commission shall be elected by  
22 the members of the commission.

23 Sec. 44.03.140. TERM. The term of the members of the commission  
24 begins on the day following the call by the governor under AS 44.03.120  
25 for the commission to convene and expires on submission of the final  
26 recommendations by the commission under AS 44.03.170(c).

27 Sec. 44.03.150. VACANCIES. A vacancy in the membership of the  
28 commission shall be filled by the authority that made the vacated ap-  
29 pointment.

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Sec. 44.03.160. POWERS. (a) The commission may employ professional, legal, and other staff assistants and enter into contracts for goods and services.

(b) Members of the commission serve without compensation but are entitled to expenses, travel, and per diem allowances provided by law.

(c) Agencies of the state shall provide the commission with information requested by it.

Sec. 44.03.170. REPORTS, HEARINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) The commission shall make a preliminary report to the legislature within the first 10 days of the Second Session of the Twelfth Legislature.

(b) The commission shall and committees of the legislature may hold hearings on the preliminary report throughout the state.

(c) The commission shall submit its final recommendations to the legislature within the first 10 days of the First Session of the Thirteenth Legislature.

Sec. 44.03.180. CERTAIN INTERESTS PRESERVED. If the commission recommends that the legislature seek a new relationship between the people of Alaska and the United States, the legislature intends that interests created under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other laws for the protection and benefit of Alaska Natives and the legitimate interests of the United States in the land, resources, and defense of Alaska be preserved.

Sec. 44.03.190. DEFINITION. In AS 44.03.100 - 44.33.190 "commission" means the Alaska Statehood Commission.

\* Sec. 3. AS 44.03.100 - 44.03.190, enacted by sec. 2 of this Act, are repealed January 1, 1984.

\* Sec. 4. (a) At the first statewide election occurring after the effective date of this Act, the lieutenant governor shall place the following proposition before the voters:

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Q U E S T I O N

1  
2 Shall the Alaska Statehood Commission be convened to study the status of  
3 the people of Alaska within the United States and to consider and recom-  
4 mend appropriate changes in the relationship of the people of Alaska to  
5 the United States?

6 [ ] Yes

7 [ ] No

8 (b) If a majority of the votes cast on the question placed before the  
9 voters under (a) of this section is in the affirmative, the lieutenant gover-  
10 nor shall certify that the proposition has received an affirmative vote.

11 \* Sec. 5. Within 15 days after the lieutenant governor certifies that the  
12 proposition stated in sec. 4 of this Act has received an affirmative vote,  
13 the governor shall call for the Alaska Statehood Commission to convene within  
14 30 days. The call shall conform to AS 44.03.120.

15 \* Sec. 6. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-  
16 070(c).