

**HOUSE BILL NO. 63**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
 THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE STUTES

Introduced: 1/15/21  
 Referred: Prefiled

**A BILL****FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Transportation and Public  
 2 Facilities; renaming the Alaska Marine Transportation Advisory Board the Alaska  
 3 Marine Highway Operations Board; relating to the membership and duties of the  
 4 Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board; and providing for an effective date."

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

6 \* **Section 1.** AS 19.65.011 is amended to read:

7           **Sec. 19.65.011. Comprehensive long-range plan.** The Department of  
 8 Transportation and Public Facilities, in consultation with the Alaska Marine **Highway**  
 9 **Operations** [TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY] Board, shall prepare a  
 10 comprehensive long-range plan for the development and improvement of the Alaska  
 11 marine highway system and shall, in consultation with the Alaska Marine **Highway**  
 12 **Operations** [TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY] Board, revise and update the plan at  
 13 least every **three** [FIVE] years. The department shall submit the comprehensive long-  
 14 range plan and revisions and updates of the plan to the legislature.

1 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 19.65.110 is amended to read:

2           **Sec. 19.65.110. Alaska Marine Highway Operations**  
 3           **[TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY] Board.** There is established in the Department  
 4 of Transportation and Public Facilities the Alaska Marine **Highway Operations**  
 5 **[TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY] Board.**

6 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 19.65.120(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:

7           (a) The board is composed of the following nine members, each of whom  
 8 must be a resident of the state:

9                   (1) the head of the division of marine transportation;

10                   (2) one representative, who may be retired, of a recognized union that  
 11 represents employees of the Alaska marine highway system, appointed by the  
 12 governor;

13                   (3) three public members who have experience in marine business and  
 14 procurement practices, marine personnel management, commercial service options,  
 15 ship maintenance, construction, and repair, fleet strategy, reliability, and regulatory  
 16 compliance, or risk management, appointed by the governor;

17                   (4) two members appointed by the speaker of the house of  
 18 representatives and who serve at the pleasure of the speaker of the house of  
 19 representatives;

20                   (5) two members appointed by the president of the senate and who  
 21 serve at the pleasure of the president of the senate.

22 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 19.65.120(c) is amended to read:

23           (c) The members of the board, **except for the head of the division of marine**  
 24 **transportation,** shall serve staggered three-year terms. If a vacancy arises on the  
 25 board, the governor, **the president of the senate, or the speaker of the house, as**  
 26 **applicable,** shall, within 30 days after the vacancy arises, appoint a person to serve the  
 27 balance of the unexpired term. A person appointed to fill the balance of an unexpired  
 28 term shall serve on the board from the date of appointment until the expiration of the  
 29 term.

30 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 19.65.120(d) is amended to read:

31           (d) **A** [BOARD MEMBERS SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE

1 GOVERNOR. IN ADDITION, A] majority of the membership of the board may  
 2 remove a member, except for the head of the division of marine transportation, if  
 3 that member misses more than two meetings in a calendar year and has not been  
 4 previously excused.

5 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 19.65.180 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

6 (e) The board shall provide advice and recommendations to the commissioner  
 7 of transportation and public facilities concerning the operation and management of the  
 8 Alaska marine highway system, including advice and recommendations regarding  
 9 business to enhance revenue and reduce costs, personnel management, commercial  
 10 service options, ship maintenance, construction, and repair, fleet strategy, reliability,  
 11 and regulatory compliance, and other service objectives.

12 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 19.65.195 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 19.65.195. Definition.** In AS 19.65.110 - 19.65.195, "board" means the  
 14 Alaska Marine Highway Operations [TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY] Board.

15 \* **Sec. 8.** AS 19.65.120(b) is repealed.

16 \* **Sec. 9.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
 17 read:

18 ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY OPERATIONS BOARD; TRANSITION. (a) The  
 19 terms of members who fill seats on the Alaska Marine Transportation Advisory Board under  
 20 AS 19.65.120(a) as it read on the day before the effective date of this Act, expire on the  
 21 effective date of this Act.

22 (b) Notwithstanding AS 19.65.120(c), as amended by sec. 4 of this Act, and  
 23 AS 39.05.055, the seats on the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board established by  
 24 AS 19.65.120(a), as repealed and reenacted by sec. 3 of this Act, shall be filled as follows:

25 (1) the three public members appointed by the governor shall serve one-year  
 26 terms;

27 (2) the members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives shall  
 28 serve two-year terms;

29 (3) the union representative appointed by the governor and the members  
 30 appointed by the president of the senate shall serve three-year terms.

31 (c) The head of the division of marine transportation begins membership on the

1 Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board on the effective date of this Act.

2 (d) Nothing in this section prevents the appointment of a person whose term expires  
3 under (a) of this section to the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board, provided that the  
4 person meets the qualifications in AS 19.65.120(a), as repealed and reenacted by sec. 3 of this  
5 Act.

6 \* **Sec. 10.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2022.