

State of Alaska Statutes, Bills and Resolutions 2000-2018

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Key Findings

1. The Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Line of Effort with the largest number, around 50%, of related State of Alaska's Statutes, Bills and Resolutions is "Promote Economic and Resource Development".
2. The Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Line of Effort with the largest percentage of failed Bills and Resolutions is "Support Healthy Communities".

Overview

This report is the second in a series of short reports examining the significance of Alaska as the arctic State of the United States. In 2011 during the administration of Governor Parnell, the Alaska Northern Waters Task Force was created by the Legislature to examine issues of the opening of Alaska's arctic waters to greater interest and traffic. Based on the recommendation of this task force, the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission (AAPC) was created by House Concurrent Resolution 23 (1 & 2) in 2012 to "develop an Arctic policy for the state and produce a strategy for the implementation of an Arctic policy." This bipartisan effort comprised 26 Commissioners – 10 legislators and 16 experts. It was co-chaired by legislators Senator Lesil McGuire and Representative Bob Herron. Beginning in early 2013 and ending its work in early 2015, with a three-month public comment and survey period in Spring 2014, the AAPC created a Preliminary Report, a Final Report, and an Implementation Plan. These documents, as well as related information, are accessible at <http://www.akarctic.com/>. On the advice of the AAPC, the state legislature passed, and the Governor approved, Alaska Statutes Title 44. State Government § 44.99.105. This new legal declaration sustained the work of the AAPC by adopting as "priority lines of effort for the Arctic policy of the state" those proposed in the implementation plan.

Below is the intent of the policy:

- (b) It is the intent of the legislature that this declaration of Arctic policy
 - (1) be implemented through statutes and regulations;
 - (2) not conflict with, subjugate, or duplicate other existing state policy;
 - (3) guide future policy derived from the implementation strategy developed by the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission;

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Discussion

The extent to which the AAPC Lines of Effort are implemented through statutes and regulations varies. The AAPC line of effort with the greatest percentage, around 50%, of related State of Alaska Statutes, Bills and Resolutions is "Promote Economic and Resource Development". The largest ratio of "Promote Economic and Resource Development" is "Bills Passed" – with 16 out of 24, or 67%. Why is legislation related to "Promote Economic and Resource Development" most common in the State of Alaska?

In Report #1 of this series, we found that the largest portion of graduate-level research at UA was related to the "Support Healthy Communities" line of effort, followed by the "Strengthen Science and Research". In Report #3, we found that State of Alaska Departments related to natural resources (e.g., Fish and Game) had the greatest "Arctic" relevance. The greater amount of research by UA

