

Sponsor Statement for HB 333

Extending The Regulatory Commission Of Alaska

An Act extending the termination date of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; and providing for an effective date.

Released: April 13, 2002
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Committee Substitute for House Bill 333 will extend the sunset date for the Regulatory Commission of Alaska from June 30, 2002 to June 30, 2006. Pursuant to AS 44.66.010(c), The legislature may extend the termination date for this agency for a period not to exceed four years. HB 333 allows an extension for the full four years.

The Division of Legislative Audit published its audit report on November 28, 2001. The report concluded that the Regulatory Commission of Alaska operates in a reasonably effective and efficient manner and should continue to regulate public utilities and pipelines.

The measure adds a new section (AS 42.05.175) to the statute to establish timelines for RCA action. We believe that they will assist in assuring that decisions are made in a timely fashion so that regulated utilities will not face unnecessary delays in regulatory actions. It also amends AS 42.05.191 to allow the RCA to approve settlements supported by all parties to an action.

CSHB 333 would be effective immediately, thus the Regulatory Commission of Alaska would not need to begin the process of shutting down its operations pursuant to AS 44.66.010(b).