

## Sponsor Statement for SB 253

# Extending the Regulatory Commission of Alaska

### *An Act extending the termination date of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska.*

The [Regulatory Commission of Alaska](#) is charged with the responsibility to ensure the furnishing of safe and adequate service to all public utility patrons, without discrimination and at reasonable rates, consistent with the interests of both the public and the utility. RCA regulates pipeline, telephone, electric, natural gas, water, sewer, refuse, cable TV, and steam services.

The commission consists of five commissioners appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. The commissioners must either be a member in good standing of the Alaska Bar Association or have a degree in engineering, finance, economics, accounting, business administration, or public administration from an accredited college or university. The commissioners serve six-year terms.

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska is scheduled to terminate June 30, 2002 under [AS 44.66.010](#), Termination of State Boards and Commissions. If the legislature does not act the board would have one year, until June 30, 2003 to administratively conclude its operations.

Legislative Budget and Audit conducted a sunset review of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. It is the [opinion of Legislative Budget and Audit](#) that the RCA operates in an effective and efficient manner and should continue to regulate public utilities and pipelines. [SB 253](#) would extend the termination date of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska four years to June 30, 2006.