



# Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

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**Sponsor:** Senator Gene Therriault  
**Current Version:** SB 295  
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## Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 295

**Short Title:** Extend Navigable Waters Commission

### Summary:

- Extends the life of the Joint Federal and State Navigable Waters Commission for Alaska until 2006.

### Benefits:

The purpose of the commission is to:

- Expedite the title process to the state's submerged lands.
- Determine which bodies of water are navigable or non-navigable.
- Recommend ways to improve the water navigability determination process and quickly clear title to the state's submerged lands.

### Background:

Senate Bill 295, Senate Bill 305 and Senate Joint Resolution 27 are part of the Senate Majority's "Standing up for Alaska's land rights" package. The navigable waters issue dates back to statehood, when Alaska received title under the "equal footing" doctrine to all submerged lands under navigable water and marine waters out to three miles, with the exception of land withdrawn at statehood. The Federal government, however, has been slow to concede any navigability determinations, and fewer than 20 rivers have been determined navigable by the federal courts. The ownership of more than 60 million acres is at stake.