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Alaska State House ~ District 35, West Fairbanks

Chair, House State Affairs ~ Co-Chair, House Transportation
Member, House Labor, and Commerce ~ Member, Tribal Affairs

HB 124

Sectional Analysis

Version 34-LS0411\A

January 2026

The AIDEA Accountability Act

Section 1: Short Title. This act may be known as the AIDEA Accountability Act.

Section 2: Amends AS 44.88.030(a)

- Requires legislative confirmation for AIDEA Board Members.
- Increases the size of the Board from seven to nine members.
- Designates at least one board seat for a member representing an environmental advocacy organization.
- Adds two board members: one appointed by the Senate President, and another appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Section 3: Amends AS 44.88.030(c)

- Conforming language relating to the increased number of board members and board member designations.
- Increases board member term lengths from two to three years.
- Removes language allowing the Governor to remove board members.

Section 4: Requires the AIDEA Board to establish a personnel policy and minimum qualifications for the executive director.

Section 5: Conforming language relating to Section 14.

Section 6: Requires the AIDEA Board to adopt regulations by passing a resolution.

Section 7: Amends AS 44.88.085(d)

- Increases the public notice period for AIDEA Board Meetings from 15 to 30 days.
- Requires the AIDEA Board to give each testifier at board meetings at least two minutes for their testimony.
- Requires the Board to publish written responses to public comments.
- Requires the Board to publish a written justification when they adopt, amend, or repeal regulations.

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Section 8: Adds new section – AS 44.88.107

Caps the size of the AIDEA Revolving Loan Fund, including all its sub funds to \$500 million. If the fund goes over \$500 million, surplus funds go into the general fund.

Section 9: Adds new section – AS 44.88.179 relating to project oversight.

For all projects over \$10 million, AIDEA shall take the following actions.

- If a project is in a municipality or borough, AIDEA must seek authorization from that political subdivision. (Subsect. 1)
- Produce the following findings related to a project. (Subsect. 2)
 - The project will be economically advantageous. (A)
 - The project applicant is financially responsible. (B)
 - Address concerns about demand on public roadways and facilities relating to this project. (C)
 - Project employment (D)
 - The project is economically and financially feasible. (E)
 - The project is legal. (F)
- Produce a report about the projected economic, social, and environmental effects of the project. (Subsect. 3)
- Host a public hearing on the project. (Subsect. 3)
- Submit a report to the legislature that includes all documents relating to the findings required in this section. (Subsect. 4)
- Obtain legislative approval by law. (Subsect. 5)

Section 10: Amends AS 44.88.180(a) to prohibit AIDEA Board members from voting on measures in which they have an indirect ownership.

Section 11 – 12: Updates to annual reporting requirements for AIDEA to deliver to the legislature.

- (Sec. 11) Specifies that AIDEA's annual report is due to the Legislature on January 10. This date is already in statute. This section is simply a conforming change suggested by Legal Services.
- (Sec. 12) Requires AIDEA to develop performance metrics and that those metrics be included in the annual report. Those metrics include an analysis of:
 - Job creation
 - Industry growth
 - Financial and technical assistance provided to state businesses and private investment increases.
- (Sec. 12) Requires that the annual report include the findings of AIDEA's annual audit.
- (Sec. 12) Requires the annual report to include a recap of actions taken at all board meetings.

Section 13: Amends AS 44.88.215 to require that AIDEA be subject to the Alaska Public Records Act.

Section 14: Requires the Attorney General to approve all lawsuits pursued by AIDEA. If the Attorney General approves a lawsuit, they must notify the Legislature. The approval requirement does not apply to responses to lawsuits against AIDEA.

Section 15: Repeals AS 44.88.380, which provides immunity for AIDEA employees from damages for acts done while performing the duties of their positions.

Section 16: Transition: Appointment of AIDEA Board Members

- The terms of the members of the AIDEA Board, other than the Commissioners of DOR and DCCED, expire when the Legislature confirms at least two members appointed by the Governor.
- The term lengths of the newly appointed AIDEA Board members appointed by the governor after the effective date of this act will be as follows:
 - Two members for one year
 - Two members for two years
 - One member for three years
- The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall appoint members to the AIDEA Board on or before the 30th day of the first regular session of the 35th Legislature.
- This section does not prohibit previous board members from serving on the Board.

Section 17: Effective Date, January 1, 2027