

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1179

To amend the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 to modify the membership of the Arctic Research Commission, to establish an Arctic Executive Steering Committee, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 11, 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 to modify the membership of the Arctic Research Commission, to establish an Arctic Executive Steering Committee, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Arctic Policy Act of
5 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP OF ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION.**

2 Section 103 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act
3 of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4102) is amended by striking sub-
4 section (b) and inserting the following:

5 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

6 “(1) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—The Commission
7 shall be comprised of 9 members, to be appointed by
8 the President, of whom—

9 “(A) 4 shall be appointed from among in-
10 dividuals from academic or other research insti-
11 tutions with expertise in areas of research relat-
12 ing to the Arctic, including the physical, biologi-
13 cal, health, environmental, social, and behav-
14 ioral sciences;

15 “(B) 3 shall be appointed from among in-
16 digenous residents of the Arctic who are rep-
17 resentative of the needs and interests of Arctic
18 residents; and

19 “(C) 2 shall be appointed from among in-
20 dividuals familiar with the Arctic who are rep-
21 resentative of the needs and interests of private
22 industry undertaking resource development in
23 the Arctic.

24 “(2) CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall des-
25 ignate 1 of the members of the Commission ap-

1 pointed under paragraph (1) to be chairperson of
2 the Commission.

3 “(3) EX OFFICIO MEMBER.—The Director of
4 the National Science Foundation shall serve as a
5 nonvoting, ex officio member of the Commission.”.

6 **SEC. 3. ARCTIC EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term “Advi-
9 sory Committee” means the Arctic Advisory Com-
10 mittee established under subsection (c)(1).

11 (2) ADVISORY GROUP.—The term “Advisory
12 Group” means the Bering Sea Regional Tribal Advi-
13 sory Group established under subsection (b)(6)(A).

14 (3) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the
15 meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5,
16 United States Code.

17 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
18 of Alaska.

19 (5) STEERING COMMITTEE.—The term “Steer-
20 ing Committee” means the Arctic Executive Steering
21 Committee established by subsection (b)(1).

22 (b) STEERING COMMITTEE.—

23 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a
24 steering committee, to be known as the “Arctic Ex-
25 ecutive Steering Committee”—

1 (A) to provide guidance to agencies with
2 respect to Arctic issues;

3 (B) to enhance coordination of Federal
4 Arctic policies across agencies; and

5 (C) to collaborate with State, local, and
6 Alaska Native Tribal governments and similar
7 Alaska Native organizations, academic and re-
8 search institutions, and the private and non-
9 profit sectors, as appropriate, with respect to
10 Arctic issues.

11 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Steering Committee
12 shall be comprised of—

13 (A) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

14 (B) the heads of each of—

15 (i) the Office of Science and Tech-
16 nology Policy;

17 (ii) the Council on Environmental
18 Quality;

19 (iii) the Domestic Policy Council;

20 (iv) the National Economic Council;

21 (v) the Council of Economic Advisers;

22 and

23 (vi) the National Security Council;

1 (C) the Executive Officer of the Steering
 2 Committee, who shall be designated by the
 3 Chair of the Steering Committee; and

4 (D) a senior official holding the rank of
 5 Deputy Secretary or higher (or an equivalent
 6 officer) from each of—

7 (i) the Department of Agriculture;

8 (ii) the Department of Commerce;

9 (iii) the Department of Defense;

10 (iv) the Department of Energy;

11 (v) the Department of Health and
 12 Human Services;

13 (vi) the Department of the Interior;

14 (vii) the Department of Justice;

15 (viii) the Department of Labor;

16 (ix) the Department of State;

17 (x) the Department of Transportation;

18 (xi) the Office of the Director of Na-
 19 tional Intelligence;

20 (xii) the Environmental Protection
 21 Agency;

22 (xiii) the National Aeronautics and
 23 Space Administration;

24 (xiv) the National Science Founda-
 25 tion;

- 1 (xv) the Arctic Research Commission;
2 (xvi) the Office of Management and
3 Budget; and
4 (xvii) such other agencies or offices as
5 the Chair of the Steering Committee deter-
6 mines to be appropriate.

7 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—

8 (A) CHAIR.—The Secretary of Homeland
9 Security shall be the Chair of the Steering
10 Committee.

11 (B) VICE CHAIR.—The Director of the Of-
12 fice of Science and Technology Policy shall be
13 the Vice Chair of the Steering Committee.

14 (C) MEETINGS.—Under the leadership of
15 the Chair of the Steering Committee, the Steer-
16 ing Committee shall meet quarterly or, as the
17 Chair of the Steering Committee determines to
18 be appropriate, more frequently—

19 (i) to shape priorities for the Steering
20 Committee;

21 (ii) to establish the strategic direction
22 of the Steering Committee;

23 (iii) to oversee implementation of ac-
24 tivities of the Steering Committee; and

1 (iv) to ensure coordination of Federal
2 activities in the Arctic.

3 (D) COORDINATION.—The Steering Com-
4 mittee shall coordinate activities of the Steering
5 Committee with activities of existing working
6 groups established by law or Executive order.

7 (E) SUBCOMMITTEES AND WORKING
8 GROUPS.—As appropriate, the Chair of the
9 Steering Committee may establish subcommit-
10 tees and working groups, consisting of rep-
11 resentatives from relevant agencies—

12 (i) to focus on specific key issues
13 under the jurisdiction of the Steering Com-
14 mittee; and

15 (ii) to assist in carrying out the re-
16 sponsibilities of the Steering Committee.

17 (F) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—

18 (i) IN GENERAL.—Agencies shall pro-
19 vide administrative support and additional
20 resources, as appropriate, to support the
21 participation of the agencies in the Steer-
22 ing Committee, to the extent permitted by
23 law and using existing appropriations.

24 (ii) EXPENSES.—Each agency shall be
25 responsible for the expenses of the agency

1 in supporting the participation of the agen-
2 cy in the Steering Committee and any sub-
3 committees or working groups established
4 under subparagraph (E).

5 (G) POINT OF CONTACT.—Each member of
6 the Steering Committee shall provide to the Ex-
7 ecutive Officer of the Steering Committee the
8 name of a representative designated by the
9 member to serve as a point of contact for the
10 member, who shall be responsible for—

11 (i) coordinating efforts with inter-
12 agency partners;

13 (ii) collaborating with State, local, and
14 Alaska Native Tribal governments and
15 similar Alaska Native organizations; and

16 (iii) assisting in carrying out any
17 functions and duties assigned by the Steer-
18 ing Committee.

19 (4) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Steering Com-
20 mittee shall—

21 (A) examine the policies of the United
22 States with respect to the Arctic to identify pol-
23 icy areas that need to be updated or revised;

24 (B) provide guidance to agencies on ways
25 to increase the participation in, consultation

with, and coordination of Federal Arctic programs with individuals who live in the Arctic; and

(C) provide guidance to agencies on ways in which Arctic programs could be structured so as to be better coordinated and most effective.

(5) DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—

The Executive Officer of the Steering Committee shall—

(A) be responsible for facilitating inter-agency coordination efforts with respect to implementing the guidance and strategic priorities developed by the Steering Committee; and

(B) coordinate with the Chair of the Steering Committee to provide regular reports to the Steering Committee on agency implementation and planning efforts for the Arctic region.

(6) ENGAGEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ALASKA

AND ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—

(A) BERING SEA REGIONAL TRIBAL ADVISORY GROUP.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Steering Committee shall establish an advisory group, to be known as the “Bering Sea Regional Tribal Advisory Group”, comprised of regional elected

1 officials representing Alaska Native Tribal gov-
2 ernments for the purpose of providing input
3 and recommendations to the Steering Com-
4 mittee on activities, regulations, guidance, the
5 incorporation of traditional knowledge, or poli-
6 cies that may affect actions or conditions in the
7 northern Bering Sea and the Bering Strait re-
8 gion, with attention given to the rights, needs,
9 and knowledge of Alaska Native Tribes.

10 (B) ADDITIONAL ADVISORY GROUPS.—The
11 Steering Committee, as appropriate, shall estab-
12 lish regional Tribal advisory groups to provide
13 the Steering Committee with input and rec-
14 ommendations on a specific issue or additional
15 regions of the Arctic.

16 (C) COORDINATION.—The Steering Com-
17 mittee shall develop a process to improve co-
18 ordination and the sharing of information and
19 knowledge, including traditional knowledge,
20 among Federal, State, local, and Alaska Native
21 Tribal governments and similar Alaska Native
22 organizations, and private-sector and nonprofit-
23 sector groups on Arctic issues.

24 (D) POINT OF CONTACT.—The Steering
25 Committee shall identify an appropriate Federal

1 entity to be the point of contact for Arctic mat-
2 ters for State, local, and Alaska Native Tribal
3 governments and similar Alaska Native organi-
4 zations.

5 (c) ARCTIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Steering
8 Committee shall establish an advisory committee, to
9 be known as the “Arctic Advisory Committee”.

10 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Committee
11 shall be comprised of 13 members—

12 (A) who are appointed by the Chair of the
13 Steering Committee;

14 (B) who have sufficient experience and ex-
15 pertise in the Arctic region; and

16 (C) of whom—

17 (i) 1 shall be from the Arctic Slope;

18 (ii) 1 shall be from the North West
19 Arctic;

20 (iii) 1 shall be from Norton Sound;

21 (iv) 1 shall be from the Interior;

22 (v) 1 shall be from Yukon-Kusko-
23 kwim;

24 (vi) 1 shall be from Bristol Bay;

1 (vii) 1 shall be from the Aleutian Is-
2 lands;

3 (viii) 1 shall be from the Pribilof Is-
4 lands;

5 (ix) at least 2 may be from outside of
6 the State; and

7 (x) 3 may be at-large members.

8 (3) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Advisory Com-
9 mittee shall be selected from among the members of
10 the Advisory Committee.

11 (4) MISSION.—The mission of the Advisory
12 Committee is to advise the Chair of the Steering
13 Committee and members of the Steering Committee
14 on Federal Arctic policies, including existing Arctic
15 policies and Arctic policies that are under consider-
16 ation.

17 (5) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY
18 COMMITTEE ACT.—Except as otherwise provided in
19 this subsection, the Federal Advisory Committee Act
20 (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the Advisory Com-
21 mittee.

22 (6) DURATION.—The Advisory Committee shall
23 continue to operate during any period in which the
24 Steering Committee is in existence.

1 (d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section impairs or oth-
2 erwise affects—

3 (1) the authority granted by law to an executive
4 department, agency, or the head of an executive de-
5 partment or agency; or

6 (2) the functions of the Director of the Office
7 of Management and Budget with respect to budg-
8 etary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

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