

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 177(RES)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 2/26/24**

**Referred: Finance**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SADDLER, Fields**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to critical and essential minerals."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
4 to read:

5 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CRITICAL AND ESSENTIAL MINERALS; REPORT. (a)

6 It is the intent of the legislature that the state develop a strategy to encourage exploration,  
7 development, production, refining, and value-added manufacturing of critical and essential  
8 minerals in the state. When considering mineral economics and development and production  
9 regulatory frameworks at all levels of government, the strategy must

10 (1) position state production of critical and essential minerals at the center of  
11 production in the United States;

12 (2) support development of emerging technologies and the manufacturing of  
13 the required components; and

14 (3) consider the effects of different regulatory frameworks on development of  
15 critical and essential minerals in the state.

1 (b) Not later than the first day of the Second Regular Session of the Thirty-Fourth  
2 Alaska State Legislature, the Department of Natural Resources shall provide a report to the  
3 legislature comparing the state's current production and potential future production to national  
4 and global production of critical and essential minerals. When determining which minerals are  
5 critical and essential, the department may rely on the most recent critical minerals lists  
6 published by the United States Department of Energy and the United States Department of the  
7 Interior, Geological Survey. When developing the report, the Department of Natural  
8 Resources may consult with appropriate state and federal agencies, the University of Alaska,  
9 industry representatives, Native corporations, and advocacy organizations. The report must  
10 identify strategies to increase industry exploration for and state production and development  
11 of critical and essential minerals in the next three, five, and 10 years. The report must  
12 compare the state's permitting timelines and exploration incentives with the permitting  
13 timelines and exploration incentives in other jurisdictions. The commissioner of natural  
14 resources shall post the report on the department's Internet website and submit the report to  
15 the senate secretary and chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature  
16 that the report is available.

17 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 44.33.431(c) is amended to read:

18 (c) The commission shall make recommendations to the governor and to the  
19 legislature on ways to mitigate the constraints, including governmental constraints, on  
20 development of minerals, including coal, in the state. **The recommendations must**  
21 **also identify strategies to attract industry investment to the state and to increase**  
22 **exploration for and discovery of critical and essential minerals. The commission**  
23 **may consult with the University of Alaska and appropriate state and federal**  
24 **agencies when developing the recommendations.**