

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.

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## 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

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## 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



1 with, and coordination of Federal Arctic pro-  
 2 grams with individuals who live in the Arctic;  
 3 and

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

7 (5) DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—  
 8 The Executive Officer of the Steering Committee  
 9 shall—

10 (A) be responsible for facilitating inter-  
 11 agency coordination efforts with respect to im-  
 12 plementing the guidance and strategic priorities  
 13 developed by the Steering Committee; and

14 (B) coordinate with the Chair of the Steer-  
 15 ing Committee to provide regular reports to the  
 16 Steering Committee on agency implementation  
 17 and planning efforts for the Arctic region.

18 (6) ENGAGEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ALASKA  
 19 AND ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—

20 (A) BERING SEA REGIONAL TRIBAL ADVI-  
 21 SORY GROUP.—Not later than 180 days after  
 22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Steering  
 23 Committee shall establish an advisory group, to  
 24 be known as the “Bering Sea Regional Tribal  
 25 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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