

FUNCTIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Governor is the Chief Executive of the State. The Office of the Governor has the overall responsibility for coordinating the activities of state agencies to ensure that all programs are consistent with the governor's policy and objectives.

ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Administration centralizes services to provide more efficient, cost-effective support to state agencies and Alaskans. Services to state agencies include: Labor Relations and Personnel, Finance (payroll, accounting, and disbursements), General Services (purchasing, surplus property, mail, managing public buildings, and leases), Risk Management, Enterprise Technology Services (telecommunications and computer services), and Retirement and Benefits (public employers, public employees and retirees).

The department also provides services to the public through the: Division of Motor Vehicles, Division of Retirement and Benefits, Office of Public Advocacy, Public Defender Agency, Alaska Public Offices Commission, Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission, Office of Administrative Hearings, and Violent Crimes Compensation Board.

COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development promotes economic development, strengthens communities and provides consumer protection. To accomplish these, the department implements programs for sustainable business growth and reduced energy cost, regulates and enforces to provide a stable business climate, and provides technical and financial assistance and volunteerism outreach opportunities for communities.

The department consists of core agencies including: Division of Banking and Securities, Division of Corporations, Professional and Business Licensing, Division of Community and Regional Affairs, Division of Insurance, and the Division of Economic Development. Various corporate agencies are also part of the department, including: Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, Alaska Energy Authority, Alaska Railroad Corporation, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, Regulatory Commission of Alaska, and the Serve Alaska Commission.

CORRECTIONS

The Department of Corrections is responsible for public safety through the incarceration and supervision of offenders. The department operates 12 correctional facilities and jails that provide secure incarceration and appropriate rehabilitation programs for felons and misdemeanants; community residential centers; supervision and case management of probationers and parolees in the community; and oversight of 15 small community jails. Also included in the department is the Alaska Board of Parole, a quasi-judicial board that makes all parole related decisions.

EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Education and Early Development is responsible for Alaska's system of public education. The State Board of Education and Early Development is the executive board of the department. The board develops educational policy, promulgates regulations governing education, appoints the commissioner of Education and Early Development with the Governor's approval, and is the channel of communication between state government and the public for educational matters. Education policies are determined by the board and administered by the commissioner through department divisions. Programs administered include:

public school funding, teacher certification, and student assessment. The department also operates Mt. Edgecumbe High School, the state's secondary boarding school program. The department administers the state libraries, archives, museum services, provides grants to the arts community, and provides financial aid to postsecondary students through the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

The Department of Environmental Conservation is the state's regulatory agency responsible for protection of the environment and protection of citizens from unsafe sanitary practices.

To accomplish these results, the department develops and enforces standards for protection of the environment and the abatement of pollution to air, land and water; and controls sanitary practices related to food, drinking water and solid waste. Services to communities include financial and technical assistance for upgrading water, sewage and solid waste, assistance meeting health-based standards for air quality, and positioning oil spill response equipment for preparedness and cleanup of oil and hazardous substance releases.

Through partnerships with Alaska citizens, businesses, and communities, the department works to safely manage and reduce pollution and hazards to the environment and human health.

FISH AND GAME

The Department of Fish and Game's mission is to protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle in the Alaska Constitution. The commissioner and the department conduct management and research functions necessary to support this mission.

The Boards of Fisheries and Game are responsible for adopting regulations to conserve and develop the state's fish and wildlife resources. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission is a quasi-judicial agency that promotes resource conservation and sustained yield management by regulating entry into Alaska's commercial fisheries. The department also includes the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, which oversees restoration of the injured ecosystem through the use of the \$900 million civil settlement.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Department of Health and Social Services' mission is to promote and protect the health and well-being of Alaskans. The department's overall goal, through its eight divisions, is to help individuals and families create safe and healthy communities by focusing on substance abuse, health and wellness, health care reform, long-term care and vulnerable Alaskans.

The department's primary functions include: administering Medicaid services for low income and disabled Alaskans through the Division of Health Care Services; operation of the Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Homes; support services for seniors, providing support to disabled Alaskans and vulnerable adults through the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services; providing child protection and family preservation programs through the Office of Children's Services; operating youth detention facilities, including helping offenders transition back into their communities, through the Division of Juvenile Justice; and offering basic financial assistance, with an emphasis on self-sufficiency, to Alaskans in need through the Division of Public Assistance.

The department is committed to prevention of illness, health promotion and protection; including emergency preparedness, through the Division of Public Health; and the Division of Behavioral Health oversees commu-

nity-based mental health and substance abuse services across the continuum of care (prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery programs), including operation of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute.

LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development is responsible for advancing opportunities for employment and insuring that employers provide safe and legal working conditions. The department offers employment services, unemployment insurance, adult basic education, job training, workers' compensation adjudication and rehabilitation services, the Fishermen's and Second Injury Funds, and vocational rehabilitation for people with disabilities. In addition, the department enforces laws and regulations assuring occupational safety and health, performs mechanical inspections, and administers state wage and hour laws; serves as the labor relations agency for public employment in the state; and collects, analyzes, and releases labor market and population statistics. Also included in the department are the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, the Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission and the Alaska Vocational Technical Center.

LAW

The Department of Law is responsible for ensuring safe communities in part through the prosecution and conviction of criminal offenders. The department files both misdemeanor and felony charges; serves as legal advisor to grand juries; and represents the state in all phases of criminal trial and appellate proceedings. It provides legal assistance to state and local law enforcement, the Department of Corrections and the Division of Juvenile Justice. It also works in partnership with executive, legislative, and judicial agencies by providing legal advice and representing the state in all actions in which it is a party. Such actions include protecting Alaska's children and youth by handling child abuse, neglect, and delinquency cases expeditiously; resolving questions of state versus federal control of natural resources; ensuring that the state receives its correct share of oil and gas taxes and royalties; collecting money owed to the state by businesses and individuals for child support, fines, and other unpaid obligations; and defending the state against claims for personal injury and other damages.

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is responsible for the Alaska Army and Air National Guard, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Office of Veterans Affairs, the Alaska Military Youth Academy, and the Alaska State Defense Force and Alaska Naval Militia. The commissioner serves as the Adjutant General of the State of Alaska and exercises day to day command over the Alaska National Guard comprised of approximately 4,000 Army and Air guardsmen. The strategic mission includes the responsibility for protecting lives and property from terrorism and all other hazards, and to provide rapid recovery from all disasters through the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The department is also responsible for managing the Alaska Military Youth Academy, which is an accredited special purpose school offering the ChalleNGe program to high school dropouts. The department also provides interactive activities to elementary school students in aviation, science, technology, engineering, math, and space exploration through the STARBASE program. Lastly, the department serves as an advocate on issues affecting Alaska's veteran population.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Department of Natural Resources manages the majority of state-owned land, water and natural resources, except fish and game. These resources include approximately 100 million acres of uplands; 60 million acres of tidelands, shore lands, and submerged lands; and 40,000 miles of coastline. Strategic missions include: Responsibly develop Alaska's resources by making them available for maximum use and benefit consistent with the public interest; foster responsible commercial development and use of state land and natural resources, consistent with the public interest, for long-term wealth and employment; provide access to state

lands for private and public use, settlement, and recreation; ensure sufficient data acquisition and assessment of land and resources to foster responsible resource development; mitigate threat to the public from natural hazards by providing comprehensive fire protection services on state, private, and municipal lands, and through identifying significant geological hazards. The department also plays an instrumental role in the Alaska Pipeline Project, designed to advance construction of a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to market.

The department serves the state from offices located in 30 Alaskan communities, and encompasses the divisions of Agriculture; Forestry; Geological and Geophysical Surveys; Mining, Land and Water; Oil and Gas; Parks and Outdoor Recreation; Support Services; the Gas Pipeline Project Office; the Office of Project Management and Permitting; the Mental Health Trust Land Office; the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office; the Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, the Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board, and the Seismic Hazards Safety Commission. The department is responsible for managing the two largest oil and gas fields in North America; a park system that contains one-third of the nation's state park lands; 40% of the nation's fresh water; fire suppression management for over 134 million acres; forest resource management in three state forests totaling over 2 million acres; mineral management involving 47,412 mining claims; an agricultural program that encompasses 600-800 farms; a comprehensive archive of indigenous plant materials; and a geologic sample archive representing more than 13 million feet of oil and gas exploration and production drilling, and 450,000 feet of mineral exploration core drilling throughout the state.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Department of Public Safety is responsible for the enforcement of state laws including criminal and fish and wildlife protection laws, fire and life safety, search and rescue, and highway safety laws; providing forensic crime laboratory services to law enforcement statewide; certifying police proficiency; providing basic police academy and specialized training to municipal and state law enforcement agencies; oversight of the Village Public Safety Officer Program; and assisting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

REVENUE

The Department of Revenue administers and enforces tax and charitable gaming laws; collects, invests, and manages state funds and public employee pension trust funds; administers the Permanent Fund Dividend, Shared Taxes and Child Support Services programs; administers licensing programs mandated by statute; issues state general obligation, revenue and lease debt, and authorizes certain agency debt. Other state entities associated with the department for administrative purposes are: Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Alaska Housing Capital Corporation, Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Alaska Retirement Management Board, Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority, Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, Northern Tobacco Securitization Corporation, and the State Bond Committee.

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is responsible for the planning, research, design, construction, maintenance, operation, and protection of all state transportation systems and many public facilities. This includes approximately 260 state-owned airports and seaplane bases, more than 5,000 miles of state roads, over 700 buildings ranging from maintenance shops to state office complexes, and 25 ports and harbors. In addition, the department owns and operates the Alaska Marine Highway System, serving 33 Alaskan communities with connections to Bellingham, WA and Prince Rupert, BC. The department also owns and operates the State Equipment Fleet, which provides full maintenance support and replacement activities of approximately 7,800 light- and heavy-duty vehicles and attachments for state departments, agencies and offices.