

SB 2001/HB 2001
October 20, 2007
Supplement to the Sectional Analysis of October 1 2007
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Approximately 50 sections of the bills submitted on the first day of the special session were changed from the October 1 work draft. Where those changes were only punctuation, style, word, or grammar edits that do not affect the original analysis they are merely listed as “minor changes.”

Minor changes – Section 1

Section 2 – Expands “data” that must be provided by DNR to DOR to “reports, files and other information.”

Section 8 – Although this section adds approximately 5 pages of text to the bill, it merely restates the entire existing text of AS 38.05.180 (j) in order to make a change to AS 38.05.180(j) (6) (B). Section 8 was originally just the text of AS 38.05.180(j) (6) (B).

Section 10 – Adds Department of Natural Resource royalty auditors to the list of exempt employees.

Minor changes – Sections 15 – 22; 24 – 26

Section 26 also incorporates two substantive changes.

1. If more than one explorer holds an interest in a well, to obtain a .023 credit for exploration, that explorer, and any others holding an interest in the exploration, have to agree in writing not to invoke their rights to have information held confidential by DNR longer than 2 years.
2. The two legacy fields – Prudhoe and Kuparuk are “combined.” Credits still cannot be applied against taxes from other non-legacy fields. However, unlike the October 1 work draft of the bill, credits from one legacy field can be applied against taxes from the other.

Minor changes – Sections 27 – 29; 36 – 39

Section 39 also incorporates two substantive changes

1. If more than one explorer holds an interest in a well, to obtain a .025 credit for exploration, that explorer, and any others holding an interest in the exploration, have to agree in writing not to invoke their rights to have information held confidential by DNR longer than 2 years.
2. The 30 day period that an explorer has to provide certain data to DNR may be extended to “a period provided by the Department of Natural Resources.”

Minor changes – Sections 42, 44 – 46

Section 47 - Makes clear that the \$1,000 a day reporting penalty applies to both “reports” and “statements.”

Minor changes – Sections 48 – 50

Section 51 – Authorizes the DOR to issue non-binding “advisory” opinions. The opinion is not binding on the DOR, meaning that if a taxpayer relies on the opinion and the department subsequently changes its mind, merely having followed the advisory opinion does not shield the taxpayer from interest and penalties.

Minor changes – Sections 42, 54, 55, 56

Section 58 – Adds any costs arising from “violations of law, or failure to comply with an obligation under a lease, permit or license issued by the federal government” to the list of costs which must be excluded from qualified lease expenditures.

Minor changes – Sections 59, 60 and 62

Section 63 (a), (b) and (c) are now section 63, 64 and 65, and subsequent sections 64 – 71 are renumbered 66 – 73.

In the new Section 67, DNR auditors are given (as DOR auditors were in the original bill) 90 days to opt to either become exempt or to retain their status in a union position.