

Orderly State Land Selection Aim of Bill

Senator Bartlett introduced a bill at the request of the Alaska Division of Lands which would provide for the more orderly selection and management of lands and mineral rights under the Alaska Statehood Act.

The bill would make four changes in existing law:

1. It would remove a ten-year limit placed on the state for the selection of lands under federal mineral lease. If the limit is not removed the state will not be able to select land under federal lease after January 3, 1969.

2. It would allow the state to take over federal mineral

leases upon tentative approval of a state selection including the leases. Now the state does not take over the leases until it receives patent to the selected lands.

3. It would allow the state to select subsurface rights to land withdrawn for surface use and not otherwise available for state selection. Such a subsurface selection would be allowed only where oil exploration is compatible with the surface use of the withdrawn or reserved lands.

4. It would allow the state to make small selections in park and forest areas where boundaries between state and federal land constantly fluctuate because of beach erosion or changes in channels of navigable streams.