To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance to the University of Alaska of certain public land in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

S. ______

introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance to the University of Alaska of certain public land in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “University of Alaska Fiscal Foundation Act”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a program within the Department of the Interior to fulfill the com-
mitment of Congress to establish the University of Alaska as a land grant university with holdings sufficient to facilitate operation and maintenance of a university system for the State of Alaska.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AVAILABLE STATE SELECTED LAND.—The term “available State selected land” means Federal land in the State that has been selected by the State, including top-filed land, but not conveyed or patented to the State, pursuant to Public Law 85–508 (commonly known as the “Alaska Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Alaska.

(4) UNIVERSITY.—The term “University” means the University of Alaska.

SEC. 4. UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA LAND GRANT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program within the Bureau of Land Management to identify and convey available State selected land to the University for a land grant to support higher education.
(b) Identification of Available State Selected Land.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the State and the University may jointly identify not more than 500,000 acres of available State selected land for inclusion in the program established under subsection (a) for conveyance and patent to the University.

(2) Technical assistance.—Upon the request of the State and the University, the Secretary shall provide technical assistance in the identification of available State selected land for inclusion in the program.

(3) Survey.—Upon notification that the State and the University have identified available State selected land for conveyance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall expeditiously survey the available State selected land.

(4) Maps.—As soon as practicable after the date on which the available State selected land is identified for conveyance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress 1 or more maps depicting the available State selected land identified for conveyance under that paragraph.
(c) **State and University Concurrence; Conveyances.**—Subject to subsection (e), if the State and the University submit to the Secretary 1 or more joint letters stating that the State and the University concur with the conveyance of all or a portion of the available State selected land identified for conveyance under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall convey to the Board of Regents of the University, subject to valid existing rights, the applicable identified available State selected land, to be held in trust for the exclusive use and benefit of the University.

(d) **Administration of Conveyed Land.**—All available State selected land conveyed to the University under this Act, together with the income therefrom and the proceeds from any dispositions thereof, shall be administered by the University in trust to meet the necessary expenses of higher education programs, similar to prior Federal land grants to the University.

(e) **Terms and Conditions.**—

(1) **Maximum Acreage.**—The Secretary shall convey not more than a total of 360,000 acres of available State selected land to the University under this Act.

(2) **Letters of Concurrence.**—For purposes of subsection (c) and subject to the maximum acre-
age limitation under paragraph (1), the State and
the University may submit to the Secretary 1 or
more joint letters of concurrence identifying parcels
of available State selected land for conveyance as a
subset of the total acres to be conveyed under this
Act.

(3) ACREAGE CHARGED AGAINST ALASKA
STATEHOOD ACT ENTITLEMENT.—The total acreage
of all parcels of available State selected land con-
veyed to the University under this Act shall be
charged against the remaining entitlement of the
State under Public Law 85–508 (commonly known
as the “Alaska Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note
prec. 21).

(4) SURVEY COSTS.—In accordance with Public
Law 85–508 (commonly known as the “Alaska
Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21), the Sec-
retary shall be responsible for the costs of the survey
under subsection (b)(3).

(f) INTENT OF CONGRESS.—It is the intent of Con-
gress that any conveyance requested through a joint letter
of concurrence under subsection (c) be finalized not later
than 1 year after the date on which the letter is received
by the Secretary.
(g) State and University Participation.—Nothing in this Act requires the State or the University—

1. to participate in the program established under subsection (a); or

2. to submit joint letters of concurrence under subsection (c) or (e)(2).

SEC. 5. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.

On conveyance and patent to the University of the available State selected land under this Act, the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives of the conveyance.