AN ACT

Relating to the sale of certain state land to adjacent landowners.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1
AN ACT

Relating to the sale of certain state land to adjacent landowners.

*Section 1.* AS 38.05.035(b) is amended to read:

(b) The director may

(1) delegate the administrative duties, functions, or powers imposed upon the director to a responsible employee in the division;

(2) grant preference rights for the lease or purchase of state land without competitive bid in order to correct errors or omissions of a state or federal administrative agency when inequitable detriment would otherwise result to a diligent claimant or applicant due to situations over which the claimant or applicant had no control; the exercise of this discretionary power operates only to divest the state of its title to or interests in land and may be exercised only

(A) with the express approval of the commissioner; and

(B) if the application for the preference right is filed with the director within three years from
(i) the occurrence of the error or omission;
(ii) the date of acquisition by the state of the land; or
(iii) the date of a court decision or settlement nullifying
a disposal of state land;

(3) grant a preference right to a claimant who shows bona fide
improvement of state land or of federal land subsequently acquired by the state and
who has in good faith sought to obtain title to the land but who, through error or
omission of others occurring within the three years before (A) the application for the
preference right, (B) the date of acquisition by the state of the land, or (C) the date of a
court decision or settlement nullifying a disposal of state land, has been denied title to
it; upon a showing satisfactory to the commissioner, the claimant may lease or
purchase the land at the price set on the date of original entry on the land or, if a price
was not set at that time at a price determined by the director to fairly represent the
value of unimproved land at the time the claim was established, but in no event less
than the cost of administration including survey; the error or omission of a predecessor
in interest or an agent, administrator, or executor that [WHICH] has clearly
prejudiced the claimant may be the basis for granting a preference right;

(4) sell land by lottery for less than the appraised value when, in the
judgment of the director, past scarcity of land suitable for private ownership in any
particular area has resulted in unrealistic land values;

(5) when the director determines it is in the best interest of the state
and will avoid injustice to a person or the heirs or devisees of a person, dispose of
land, by direct negotiation to that person who presently uses and who used and made
improvements to that land before January 3, 1959, or to the heirs or devisees of the
person; the amount paid for the land shall be its fair market value on the date that the
person first entered the land, as determined by the director; a parcel of land disposed
of under this paragraph shall be of a size consistent with the person's prior use, but
may not exceed five acres;

(6) after consulting with the Board of Agriculture and Conservation
(AS 03.09.010), dispose of an interest in land limited to use for agricultural purposes
by lottery;
convey to an adjoining landowner for its fair market value a remnant of land that the director considers unmanageable or a parcel of land created by a highway right-of-way alignment or realignment, or a parcel created by the vacation of a state-owned right-of-way if

(A) the director determines that it is in the best interests of the state;

(B) the parcel

(i) does not exceed the minimum lot size under an applicable zoning code; or

(ii) is smaller than 20 acres and is completely enclosed by property owned by the adjacent landowner; and

(C) the director and the platting authority having land use planning jurisdiction agree that conveyance of the parcel to the adjoining landowner will result in boundaries that are convenient for the use of the land by the landowner and compatible with municipal land use plans;

(8) for good cause extend for up to 90 days the time for rental or installment payments by a lessee or purchaser of state land under this chapter if reasonable penalties and interest set by the director are paid;

(9) quitclaim land or an interest in land to the federal government on a determination that the land or the interest in land was wrongfully or erroneously conveyed by the federal government to the state;

(10) negotiate the sale or lease of state land at fair market value to a person who acquired by contract, purchase, or lease rights to improvements on the land from another state agency or who leased the land from another state agency.