ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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CSHB71(L&C) ARDORS Reauthorization

Sponsor Statement

March 13, 2013

HB71 extends the date of the Alaska Regional Economic Assistance program, enabling the creation of Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs). This bill extends the termination date of the program for five years. There are 12 ARDORs across the state, and they serve as the state's contribution to economic development in Alaska's urban and rural areas. They enable local officials and businesses to pool their limited resources and work together on economic development projects, develop public and private partnerships, and provide technical assistance.

In 1988 the ARDORs were formed in state statute. At that time the state believed that each region had its own concerns and challenges, and the best strategy would be to approach economic development with partners. ARDORs are non-partisan and can bring entities together for common goals and increase economic development in the regions. The ARDORs have leveraged the state funding by at least three to one and as much as eight to one.

FY14 Governor's Request: Grants to Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) $807,539 is increased from the FY2013 amount of $745,470.