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## Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

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The mission of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development is to promote a healthy economy and strong communities, and to protect consumers in Alaska. This mission is accomplished through the efforts of six core and seven corporate agencies that focus on four priorities:

- Economic Development
- Sustainable Energy
- Strong Communities
- Consumer Protection

The department provides a wide array of services including:

- Access to capital markets for businesses;
- State grants and loans;
- Programs aimed at key economic sectors, such as electric power generation, tourism, mining, fishing and timber;
- Marketing of Alaska products and visitor attractions;
- Regulation of banking, securities, corporations, insurance, occupations and public utilities;
- Financial and technical assistance to communities

### Corporate Agencies

The **Alaska Aerospace Corporation (AAC)** is a public corporation established by the State of Alaska to develop and expand aerospace-related industry, research and technical opportunities. In initial fulfillment of its charter, AAC developed, owns, and operates the Kodiak Launch Complex (KLC) on Kodiak Island, which is the nation's first commercial full-service spaceport that is not collocated on a federal launch facility. KLC is a state-of-the-industry facility that provides access to space for clients, which have included several Department of Defense agencies and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. AAC is planning to add a third launch pad and rocket motor storage facility in the near term to meet growing demand for launch services at KLC. In January 2011, Gov. Parnell issued an executive order transferring oversight of AAC to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, effective in June 2011. At the time this was printed, the Legislature had not yet

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER  
(AS 44.33.010 – 020)

DIVISION OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
(AS 44.33.010 – 020)

#### DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Rural Development (AS 44.33.020 & AS 44.33.740)
- Tourism Marketing Contracts (AS 44.33.119-125)
- Alaska Minerals Commission (AS 44.33.431)
- Tourism Development (AS 44.33.020(36))
- Economic Development Policy (AS 44.99.100)
- Alternative Energy Conservation Revolving Loan Fund (AS 45.88.010-090)
- Child Care Facility Revolving Loan Fund (AS 44.33.240-275)
- Commercial Fishing Loan Act (AS 16.10.300-370)
- Fisheries Enhancement Revolving Loan Program (AS 16.10.500-560)
- Historical District Revolving Loan Fund (AS 45.98.010-070)
- Mining Loan Fund (AS 27.09.010-060)
- Residential Energy Conservation Fund (AS 45.88.100-190)
- Small Business Revolving Loan Fund (AS 45.81.210-290)
- Veterans' Loans (AS 26.15.010-160)
- Small Business Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (AS 44.88.400-430)
- Rural Development Initiative Fund (AS 44.88.600-900)
- Alaska Capstone Avionics Revolving Loan Fund (AS 44.33.650-690)
- Tourism Revolving Fund (45.81.100-190)
- Small Business Loans (AS 45.81.200-290)
- Alaska Regional Development Organizations Program (AS 44.33.895)
- Alaska Product Preference (AS 36.30.332-338)
- Made in Alaska Program (AS 45.65.010-070)

acted on the executive order.

The **Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)** operates and maintains the existing state-owned power projects (Bradley Lake hydroelectric project, Larsen Bay hydroelectric project and the Anchorage-Fairbanks Intertie). Through a variety of financial and technical assistance programs, AEA also assists in the development of safe, reliable and effective energy systems throughout Alaska that are financially viable and environmentally sound. Emphasis is placed on rural energy programs in an effort to promote economic development and to advance the quality of life in remote areas of Alaska. Programs administered by AEA to assist in these objectives include Power Cost Equalization, which seeks to equalize the cost of electricity between urban and rural Alaska; Bulk Fuel Upgrades; Rural Power System Upgrades; Power Project loans; Bulk Fuel loans; Energy Conservation and Efficiency, and Alternative Energy Development.

The **Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA)** is a public corporation that provides the means of financing industrial, manufacturing, export and other business enterprises to further the overall goal of developing and diversifying the state's economic base. The authority supports economic development through a number of different programs. Under the Loan Participation Program, the authority works with financial institutions, such as banks, to participate up to 90 percent to a maximum of \$20 million in permanent financing for business enterprises, such as hotels, retail and office buildings, warehouses and fishing vessels. The Business and Export Assistance Program provides the financial institution up to an 80 per cent guarantee of the principal balance of a loan to a maximum of \$1 million for working capital, real property, or equipment acquisition or export transactions.

Through its Development Finance Program, the authority also encourages economic development through direct ownership of transportation infrastructure, ports, airports, utilities, and other public-use facilities. To be eligible for AIDEA funding, a project must be essential for the economic well-being of an area and must produce adequate revenues to repay the bonds sold to finance the project. The authority works closely with local governments and approves projects compatible with the local economy and supported by the community.

- Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (AS 44.33.020)

#### **DIVISION OF COMMUNITY and REGIONAL AFFAIRS**

- Advise and assist local governments (AS 44.33.020)
- Rural Development (AS 44.33.020 & AS 44.33.740)
- Various Grant Programs (AS 44.33.020 (10, 18, & 20))
- Rural Utility Business Advisory Program (AS 44.33.740)
- Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Grant Fund (AS 44.33.750)
- Classification, Alteration of Municipalities (AS 29.04 & AS 29.06)
- Appointment, Qualification and Terms of LBC (AS 39.05.060)
- Local Boundary Commission (AS 44.33.810 – AS 44.33.828, AS 44.33.020 (4))
- Municipal Lands Trust (AS 44.33.755)
- Alaska Coastal Management Program (AS 44.33.781)
- Municipal Capital Project Matching Grant Program (AS 37.06.010)
- Unincorporated Capital Project Matching Grant Program (AS 37.06.020)
- Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)
- Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)
- Grants to Unincorporated Communities (AS 37.05.317)
- Community Revenue Sharing (AS 29.60.850)
- Bulk Fuel Bridge Loan Program (AS 29.60.660)

#### **DIVISION OF BANKING & SECURITIES**

- Banks and Financial Institutions (AS 06)
- Alaska Corporations Code (AS 10.06)
- Alaska BIDCO Act (AS 10.13)
- Alaska Revised LLC Act (AS 10.50)
- Uniform Land Sales Practices Act (AS 34.55)
- Community Development Quota (AS 44.33.020 (11) & AS 44.33.113)
- Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank (AS 44.81)
- Alaska Securities Act (AS 45.55)
- Takeover Bid Disclosure Act (AS 45.57)

#### **DIVISION OF INSURANCE (AS 21)**

#### **DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS, AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**

- Centralized Licensing (AS 08.01)
- Miscellaneous Provisions (AS 08.02)

The authority is governed by a seven-member board, which it shares with AEA. The board is comprised of the commissioners of the departments of Revenue and Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, and five public members appointed by the Governor.

The **Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA)** regulates public utilities and pipeline carriers by certifying qualified providers of public utility and pipeline services and ensuring that jurisdictional utilities and pipeline carriers provide safe and adequate services and facilities at just and reasonable rates, terms, and conditions. The commission also determines eligibility and the per-kilowatt-hour support for electric utilities under power cost equalization. It is governed by a board of five commissioners appointed by the Governor.

The **Alaska Railroad Corporation** operates and manages the Alaska Railroad, which the federal government sold to the state in 1985. It is a public corporation with a legal existence independent of, and separate from, the State, and is governed by the board of directors consisting of the commissioners of the departments of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development and Transportation and Public Facilities, and five public members appointed by the Governor.

The Railroad operates year-round rail freight and passenger service from Seward to Anchorage and into the Interior city of Fairbanks. The Railroad also owns approximately 36,000 acres of land, half of which is devoted to operations, and the other half is available for lease. Mandated by law to be a self-supporting corporation, the Railroad fosters and promotes the long-term economic growth and development of the State.

The **Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI)** was created in 1981 by the Alaska Legislature. It is a partnership of state government and private industry under the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, funded by the Alaska seafood industry, the State of Alaska and the federal government. ASMI's programs, which promote Alaska-brand seafood and conduct food safety and quality assurance education, are guided by a seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the Governor, which is made up of commercial fishermen and representatives of large and small seafood processing firms. Three ex-officio members, representing the two chambers of the Legislature and DCCED Commissioner's

- Termination, Continuation and Reestablishment of Regulatory Boards (AS 08.03)
- Board of Public Accountancy (AS 08.04)
- Board of Barbers and Hairdressers (AS 08.13)
- Board of Chiropractic Examiners (AS 08.20)
- Board of Professional Counselors (AS 08.29)
- Board of Dental Examiners (AS 08.36)
- State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AS 08.48)
- Board of Marine Pilots (AS 08.62)
- Board of Marital and Family Therapy (AS 08.63)
- State Medical Board (AS 08.64)
- Board of Certified Direct Entry Midwives (AS 08.65)
- Board of Nursing (AS 08.68)
- Board of Examiners in Optometry (AS 08.72)
- Board of Pharmacy (AS 08.80)
- State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board (AS 08.84)
- Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners (AS 08.86)
- Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers (AS 08.87)
- Real Estate Commission (AS 08.88)
- Board of Social Work Examiners (AS 08.95)
- Board of Veterinary Examiners (AS 08.98)
- Regulation of Acupuncturists (AS 08.06)
- Regulation of Audiologists and Speech-language Pathologists (AS 08.11)
- Regulation of Construction Contractors (AS 08.18)
- Regulation of Collection Agencies (AS 08.24)
- Regulation of private professional guardians and private professional conservators (AS 08.26)
- Regulation of Dental Hygienists and Assistants (AS 08.32)
- Regulation of Dietitians and Nutritionists (AS 08.38)
- Regulation of Electrical and Mechanical Administrators (AS 08.40)
- Regulation of Morticians (AS 08.42)
- Regulation of the Practice of Naturopathy (AS 08.45)
- Regulation of Explosive Handlers (AS 08.52)
- Regulation of Guide-Outfitters (AS 08.54)
- Regulation of Hearing Aid Dealers (AS 08.55)
- Regulation of Hotels and Boardinghouses (AS 08.56)

Office, round out the board. Eight advisory committees provide input to the seafood marketing and quality assurance programs. ASMI's programs are conducted in the United States and overseas to increase consumption of Alaska seafood and promote quality. Alaska processor and federal funds supply the funding for ASMI operations.

The International Marketing Program promotes Alaska seafood in 15 countries overseas, mainly in Asia and Europe. The International Marketing Program is conducted partially with funding provided by the federal government through the USDA Market Access Program, as well as state matching funds.

The Seafood Technical Program at ASMI promotes Alaska seafood quality from the point of harvest to the consumer's plate. The program conducts quality assurance training and develops and disseminates seafood quality training and handling materials.

**Serve Alaska** fosters, supports, and promotes the ethic of service and volunteerism and endeavors to engage Alaskans of all ages and backgrounds in tangible, results-oriented community projects. Since 1994, Serve Alaska has been increasing volunteerism and service to communities in Alaska. One of the commission's primary functions is to oversee grants provided to tribal, local non-profit and government agencies to run national service programs like AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America. The commission is comprised of up to 25 members appointed by the Governor to establish the goals and objectives for the mission of the Serve Alaska. Commissioners also provide guidance and oversight to the Executive Director and staff.

### **Division of Administrative Services**

The **Division of Administrative Services** provides administrative support services to the department in the areas of accounting, budget, procurement, property control, and information technology.

### **Division of Economic Development**

The mission of the **Division of Economic Development** is to promote economic opportunities for Alaskans. The division is a one-stop shop that can assist an existing or proposed business with financing, marketing, business assistance, and governmental coordination. Programs

- Regulation of Junk Dealers and Junk Yards (AS 08.60)
- Regulation of Motor Vehicle Dealers and Buyers' Agents (AS 08.66)
- Regulation of Nursing Home Administrators (AS 08.70)
- Regulation of Dispensing Opticians (AS 08.71)
- Regulation of Pawnbrokers and Secondhand Dealers (AS 08.76)
- Regulation of concert promoters (AS 08.92)
- Regulation of professional geologists (AS 08.02.011)
- Regulation of euthanasia for domestic animals (AS 03.02.050)
- Regulation of Mortgage Brokers/Lenders (AS 06.60)
- Regulation of Corporations (AS 10.06)
- Money Service Businesses (AS 06.55)
- Alaska Business License Act (AS 43.70)
- Athletic Commission (AS 05.05, 05.10)
- Certification of Storage Tank Workers (AS 46.03.375)
- Student Loan Default Program (AS 14.43.148)
- Child Support Enforcement Program (AS 25.27.244)
- Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62)
- Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (AS 44.33.020)

### **ALASKA AEROSPACE CORPORATION**

- Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation (AS 14.40.821-990)
- State Facilities Operations and Maintenance (AS 37.07.020(e))

### **ALASKA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXPORT AUTHORITY**

- Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AS 44.88)
- State Facilities Operations and Maintenance (AS 37.07.020(e))

### **ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY**

- Alaska Energy Authority (AS 44.83)
- State Facilities Operations and Maintenance (AS 37.07.020(e))

### **ALASKA SEAFOOD MARKETING INSTITUTE**

- Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (AS 16.51.010-180)

### **REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA**

- Regulatory Commission of Alaska (AS 42.04)
- Public Utilities Regulatory Act (AS 42.05)

focus on business creation and retention, tourism, film, fisheries, forest products, minerals, and direct state lending.

- The **Development Section** provides specialized assistance in tourism, film, fisheries, forest products, minerals, and small business programs that are designed to further diversify Alaska's economic landscape and foster new employment opportunities for Alaskans. Programs include:

- Pipeline Act (AS 42.06)
- Rural and Statewide Energy Programs (AS 42.45)

**DCED STATE FACILITIES RENT**

- State Facilities Operations and Maintenance (AS 37.07.020(e))

AS-Alaska Statute

- Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDOR)
- Made in Alaska
- Small Business Development
- Developing Alaska Rural Tourism (DART)
- Tourism Mentorship Assistance
- Alaska Product Preference
- Qualified Trade Association Contract – ATIA
- Alaska Visitor Statistics

- The **Financing Section** administers 12 loan programs that direct state funding in industries and areas of the state that are not adequately serviced by the private sector. Active lending is currently available in four of the programs:

- Commercial Fishing Revolving Loan Fund;
- Fisheries Enhancement Revolving Loan Fund;
- Small Business Economic Development (SBED);
- Rural Development Initiative Fund

### **Division of Banking and Securities**

The **Division of Banking and Securities** examines state-chartered and licensed depository and non-depository financial institutions, administers Alaska's securities laws, and provides consumer and investor education and outreach.

- The **Banking Section** charters and examines state-chartered banks, bank holding companies, credit unions, trust companies, small loan companies, business and industrial development corporations (BIDCOs), as well as premium finance companies.
- The **Securities Section** registers securities; approves exempt securities offerings; licenses, registers, and examines investment advisors and broker-dealers; investigates investor complaints and reports of fraud; and administers proxy filing requirements for Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act corporations.
- The **Consumer Finance Section** registers, licenses, examines and investigates complaints against non-depository financial institutions, which includes mortgage brokers, lenders and originators, as well as money service

businesses, which include: (1) money transmitters (wiring of funds); (2) issuers of traveler's checks, money orders, or stored value cards; (3) sellers or redeemers of traveler's checks, money orders or stored value cards; and (4) currency dealers or exchangers.

The mission of the **Division of Community and Regional Affairs** (DCRA) is to promote strong communities and healthy economies. DCRA does this by focusing on promoting efficient, accountable and effective local administration of boroughs, cities, tribal governments and nonprofit corporations that provide a public service to communities. DCRA coordinates the resources of state agencies and commissions, federal agencies and commissions, regional nonprofit organizations, municipal governments and tribal governing bodies to develop public service facilities and efficient public service delivery.

DCRA has staff located in seven regional locations across Alaska. Staff in each office are in frequent contact with the surrounding communities, helping to develop and maintain the efficiency and effectiveness of the communities' local governments.

DCRA is composed of the following sections:

- Local Government Assistance and the Rural Utility Business Advisor program
- Planning, Land Management and Resource Development
- Grants Program Administration
- Community Aid and Accountability
- Staff to the Local Boundary Commission
- Office of the State Assessor
- Research and Community Information

Specific key programs run by the DCRA include:

- Municipal Lands Trustee Program
- Shared Revenue Funding Programs like:
  - Community Revenue Sharing
  - Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)
  - National Forest Receipts
  - Fish Tax Revenue Sharing
- Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP)
- Community Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CCIAP)
- Community Development Block Grants
- Administration of Designated Legislative Grants
- Alaska Community Database

### **Division of Insurance**

The mission of the **Division of Insurance** is to ensure that competitive, viable, ethical and lawful insurance is available to Alaskans. The Division also provides information about insurance through annual publications designed to heighten consumer awareness. The Division accomplishes this through:

- **Financial oversight:** The primary goal of the Division is to enforce the financial examination statutes and regulations to ensure that the insurance companies doing business in Alaska are solvent.
- **Licensing:** Issuing insurance company licenses and producer licenses within reasonable timelines ensures insurance products are available to Alaskans.
- **Compliance:** Various tools, including investigations of consumer complaints and market examination of insurance companies, are utilized to ensure compliance with Alaska statutes and regulations governing insurance companies.
- **Investigations:** Alleged fraudulent insurance activities are investigated leading to both civil administrative actions and criminal convictions, including felony convictions.
- **Filing review:** Rates and forms used by insurers providing insurance coverage of Alaskans are monitored for conformity with statutory standards.
- **Consumer outreach and education:** To ensure consumers have the tools to evaluate and purchase insurance products that are appropriate for their needs, various outreach programs are conducted.

### **Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing**

The **Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing** issues corporate registrations, state business licenses and occupational licenses to practice specific professions.

- **Corporations**  
This Section examines organizational documents for a variety of business entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies and limited partnerships, and issues Certificates of Authority to foreign business entities doing business in Alaska. This Section also administers the State's trademarks laws and maintains a registry of business names.
- **Business Licensing**  
A state license is required to conduct business in Alaska. Businesses are classified according to their primary activity. Application forms are available in the division's Juneau and Anchorage offices as well as on the Internet. Business licenses are issued for a one- or two-year period at a cost \$50 for each year. Additional licensing is required for the sale of tobacco or tobacco products, at a cost of \$100 per location.
- **Investigations**  
This Section reviews and investigates complaints concerning violations of the statutes and regulations that govern professional and business licenses. Investigations may include fraud, malpractice, negligence, misconduct, ethics

and noncompliance of various licensing provisions. Unless the investigation results in public action, contents of an investigation are kept confidential.

- **Professional Licensing**

This Section ensures that qualified professionals get properly licensed for the 40 professions requiring a professional license in the State of Alaska. Professional Licensing staff examine and process licensing applications, administer licensing examinations, and assist the State professional licensing boards.

**Licensing Boards assisted by the Division:**

Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors	Optometry
Barbers and Hairdressers	Pharmacy
Big Game Commercial Service Board	Physical and Occupational Therapy
Certified Direct-Entry Midwives	Professional Counselors
Certified Real Estate Appraisers	Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners
Chiropractic Examiners	Public Accountancy
Dental Examiners	Real Estate Appraisers
Marine Pilots	Real Estate Commission
Marital and Family Therapy	Social Workers
Medical	Veterinary Examiners
Nursing	

**Licensing programs administered directly by the Division:**

Acupuncture	Geologists
Audiologists	Guardians & Conservators
Collection Agencies	Hearing Aid Dealers
Concert Promoters	Home Inspectors
Construction Contractors	Morticians
Dieticians and Nutritionists	Naturopaths
Dispensing Opticians	Nursing Home Administrators
Electrical and Mechanical Administrators	Pawnbrokers
Euthanize Domestic Animals/Permits	Speech-Language Pathologists
	Underground Storage Tank Workers