

HOUSE BILL NO. 314

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

Introduced: 2/17/16

Referred: Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the Alaska regional economic assistance program; extending the
2 termination date of the Alaska regional economic assistance program; and providing for
3 an effective date."

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

5 * **Section 1.** AS 44.33.896(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) **Subject to appropriation, the** [THE] department shall

7 (1) encourage the formation of regional development organizations by
8 providing assistance in forming organizations to interested individuals, including
9 information on how to qualify and apply for regional development grants and federal
10 funding under 42 U.S.C. 3121 - 3246 (Public Works and Economic Development Act
11 of 1965), as amended;

12 (2) assist an interested individual in establishing boundaries for a
13 proposed organization to ensure that the region

14 (A) is of sufficient geographic size and contains a large enough

1 population to form an economically viable unit with shared interests,
2 resources, traditions, and goals;

3 (B) contains at least one municipality that serves as a regional
4 center; and

5 (C) contains the entire area of each municipality included in the
6 region;

7 (3) gather information about regional economic issues, international
8 trade, and tourism from organizations;

9 (4) serve as liaison between organizations and other state agencies and
10 encourage other agencies to make resources available to help accomplish goals of the
11 organizations;

12 (5) assist each organization to

13 (A) provide services designed to encourage economic
14 development to local communities and businesses;

15 (B) collect and distribute economic information relevant to the
16 region;

17 (C) participate in state marketing campaigns and join state
18 trade missions that are relevant to the region; and

19 (D) develop and implement strategies to attract new industry,
20 expand international trade opportunities, and encourage tourism within the
21 region.

22 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.33.896(b) is amended to read:

23 (b) Subject to **appropriation and to** (c) of this section, the department may
24 make regional development grants to organizations for projects the department
25 determines will be of value in encouraging economic development. During a fiscal
26 year, the department may make **not** [NO] more than 15 grants and may only make
27 grants to one organization from a particular region. An organization that is designated
28 an economic development district under 42 U.S.C. 3171 qualifies for grants under this
29 subsection. The department shall by regulation adopt procedures for applying for
30 regional development grants, including application deadlines. The department may by
31 regulation establish additional grant eligibility requirements.

1 * **Sec. 3.** AS 44.33.896(e) is amended to read:

2 (e) Not later than February 1 of each year, the department shall compile a
 3 report [ON STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 4 PROJECTS AND] on the activities of regional development organizations that, **in the**
 5 **preceding fiscal year,** [HAVE] received assistance under (a) of this section or a grant
 6 under (b) of this section. The department shall notify the legislature that the report is
 7 available. The report must include the information listed in (1) - (3) of this subsection.
 8 To compile the report, the department shall require each regional development
 9 organization **that, in the preceding fiscal year, received assistance under (a) of this**
 10 **section or a grant under (b) of this section** to provide the following information to
 11 the department on or before a date set by the department:

12 (1) an assistance and funding summary for the previous fiscal year that
 13 includes

14 (A) the assistance provided to the organization by the
 15 department, the amount and purposes of grants made to the organization by the
 16 department, and a statement of any other funding received by the organization
 17 from the state;

18 (B) the amount of federal funding and grants received by the
 19 organization; and

20 (C) the amounts and sources of private sector sponsorships;

21 (2) an activity summary that includes

22 (A) a summary of the meetings of the board of the regional
 23 development organization held during the past year, including the number of
 24 meetings and the date, location, and a brief description of the agenda of each
 25 meeting;

26 (B) a summary of economic development initiatives being
 27 undertaken and services being provided by the regional development
 28 organization at the time of the report;

29 (C) a work plan containing goals, objectives, and strategies for
 30 addressing regional economic needs;

31 (D) a summary of any comprehensive economic development

1 strategy being implemented by the board at the time of the report; and

2 (E) the status of projects funded by grants from the state or the
3 federal government; and

4 (3) an economic development summary that includes

5 (A) potential projects identified by the board that may enhance
6 economic development; and

7 (B) challenges to regional economic development identified by
8 the board.

9 * **Sec. 4.** Section 21, ch. 2, SLA 2014, is amended to read:

10 Sec. 21. AS 44.33.896 is repealed July 1, **2021** [2016].

11 * **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
12 read:

13 RETROACTIVITY. If sec. 4 of this Act takes effect on or after July 1, 2016, it is
14 retroactive to July 1, 2016.

15 * **Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).