



Representative Jennifer Johnston Sectional Analysis House Bill 197

This sectional is only a summary of the bill and should not be treated as a substitute for the bill.

Section 1: Amends the duties of the Commissioner of Natural Resources to include development and regulation of noncommercial seed use in community seed libraries.

Section 2&3: Adds subsection (b) to AS 03.05.030 to allow an exemption for seed libraries from regulations governing commercial seeds as long as they comply with AS 03.20.110 and do not violate regulations that pertain to patented use without permission, be misrepresented in classification or be prohibited by the department as a noxious (harmful) seed.

Section 4: Adds new sections 03.20.110, 03.20.120, 03.20.130, 03.20.140 and 03.20.150 providing guidelines for seed libraries; a person can establish a community seed library, packaging must be labeled with the common name of plant and name and address of the seed library. The seed library must display a sign that states "Not authorized for commercial use and not classified, graded, or inspected by the State of Alaska." If a seed is treated with a toxic substance, it must be labeled as so. The maximum transfer of seed cannot exceed 100 pounds per recipient, and if it does then it is subject to additional seed regulations within the Department. This section also directs the department to create a seed register for publication online. Nothing in these sections authorizes exchange, distribute or receive seeds that are considered a controlled substance under AS 11.71, a drug under AS 17.20, marijuana under AS 17.38, and a seed that is considered to be noxious, invasive or toxic.

Section 5: Change to include language about community seed libraries to statute regulating plant materials centers already in existence within the University of Alaska system.

Section 6: Amends AS 44.37.0303 to include community seed libraries in the information that the department must publish online and in print.

Section 7: Amended to include a subsection that allows the Department of Natural Resources to advise people interested in starting a community seed library on best practices and to submit information about their library without a fee.