

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE



Rep. Robyn Niayuq Frier
State Capitol, Room 108
907-465-3473
Rep.Robyn.Niayuq.Frier@akleg.gov

Rep. Maxine Dibert
State Capitol, Room 126
907-465-2138
Rep.Maxine.Dibert@akleg.gov

Official Business

House Joint Resolution 44 Research Timeline SBA 8(a)

“Support Native Corp Business Development Program”

1953 – Congress creates the Small Business Administration (SBA) to assist small businesses, including those disadvantaged socially or economically.

Members:

Representative
Carolyn Hall

Late 1960s – Federal agencies begin early efforts to promote minority-owned business participation in government contracting—precursors to the 8(a) Program.

Representative
Donna Mears

1971 – The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) establishes Alaska Native corporations (ANCs) to promote economic self-sufficiency, providing the foundation for later inclusion in federal contracting programs.

Representative
Zack Fields

1978 – Congress formally authorizes the 8(a) Program under the Small Business Act, creating a structured program to help disadvantaged small businesses compete for federal contracts.

Representative
Dan Saddler

Representative
Mike Prax

1986–1988 – Major reforms rename the initiative the Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development Program and establish the nine-year participation term (developmental and transitional stages).

Representative
Julie Coulombe

1990s – Tribal, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian entities gain explicit eligibility, recognizing their unique federal status and collective ownership structures.

Representative
Bill Elam

2000s – 8(a) participation and contracting volume grow significantly; oversight and transparency measures expand alongside mentorship and technical training programs.

2011 – The SBA issues revised regulations clarifying participation rules for tribally- and ANC-owned firms, maintaining accountability while reaffirming the federal trust responsibility.

2019–2021 – Modernization continues—digital certification systems, inflation adjustments, and integration of the Mentor–Protégé Program expand business development support.

2023 – Federal courts review social disadvantage criteria, prompting the SBA to require individualized evidence for eligibility determinations.

2024–Present – The 8(a) Program remains a key tool for promoting economic inclusion and Native self-determination, providing billions in federal contracting opportunities each year and strengthening local economies across Alaska and Indian Country.