

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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**REPRESENTATIVE CRAIG JOHNSON**  
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## **SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HB 97**

This bill will allow the Commissioner of Natural Resources to keep employed a state coordinator to manage and educate the citizens of Alaska on the subject of noxious weeds, invasive terrestrial plants, and agricultural pests. This coordinator works through the Division of Agriculture along with other state departments, agencies and institutions. This person brings together the aforementioned entities in addition to the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts.

Through this coordination the State of Alaska has begun to develop a strategic plan and requested Federal funding for survey projects. More importantly, a start toward limiting economic loss and adverse effects to the state's agricultural, natural, and human resources because of the presence and spread of noxious weeds, invasive terrestrial plants, and agricultural pests, in the state.

This bill repeals the sunset date of June 30, 2011.