

HOUSE BILL NO. 57

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES SEATON, Gruenberg

Introduced: 1/18/11

Referred: Transportation, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act authorizing municipalities and nonprofit organizations to sponsor a program to**
2 **encourage the safe use of bicycles as a mode of transportation, and amending the duties**
3 **of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to include administration of**
4 **state funds appropriated for that purpose."**

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

6 * **Section 1.** AS 29.55 is amended by adding a new section to read:

7 **Article 2. Safe Bicycle Ridership.**

8 **Sec. 29.55.100. Safe bicycle ridership.** (a) To encourage the safe use of
9 bicycles as a mode of transportation, the governing body of a municipality may
10 establish a program within the municipality to encourage the safe use, distribution, and
11 maintenance of bicycles, bicycle helmets, bicycle facilities, and bicycle trailers.

12 (b) The municipality may apply for a grant under AS 44.42.150 to receive
13 funds for the purchase, maintenance, and repair of bicycles, bicycle helmets, bicycle
14 facilities, and bicycle trailers by municipal residents.

1 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.42 is amended by adding a new section to read:

2 **Article 1A. Program to Encourage Safe Bicycle Ridership.**

3 **Sec. 44.42.150. Grant program to encourage safe bicycle ridership.** (a) To
4 encourage the regular and safe use of bicycles and bicycling as a mode of
5 transportation, a grant program is established in the department to allow municipalities
6 and nonprofit organizations within the state to apply for financial assistance to
7 establish programs for the purchase, maintenance, and repair of bicycles, bicycle
8 helmets, bicycle facilities, and bicycle trailers by residents of the community where
9 the grantee is located.

10 (b) The department shall develop regulations establishing criteria for issuing
11 grants to municipalities and nonprofit organizations for the program, giving priority
12 for receiving grants to municipalities and nonprofit organizations that actively
13 encourage safe bicycling as a mode of transportation.

14 (c) The commissioner shall appoint an administrator of the program. The
15 administrator shall

16 (1) educate communities and nonprofit organizations about the
17 program and the grant requirements;

18 (2) receive and evaluate grant applications;

19 (3) from money in the fund described in (d) of this section, award
20 grants to qualified applicants.

21 (d) There is established in the department a fund to encourage safe bicycle
22 ridership. The Department of Revenue is the fiduciary of the fund and may invest
23 money in the fund under AS 37.10.071. The fund consists of appropriations by the
24 legislature of

25 (1) money to provide grants for the program;

26 (2) gifts, bequests, contributions from other sources, and federal
27 money; and

28 (3) interest earned on the fund balance.

29 (e) In this section, "program" means the grant program to encourage the
30 regular and safe use of bicycles and bicycling as a mode of transportation, as described
31 in this section.

1 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
2 read:

3 PROGRAM SURVEY. Not later than

4 (1) December 31, 2011, the Department of Transportation and Public
5 Facilities shall mail a survey to all Alaska residents who received a bicycle or bicycle trailer
6 under the program established in AS 44.42.150, added by sec. 2 of this Act, to evaluate the
7 effectiveness of that program;

8 (2) December 31, 2012, the department shall deliver a report to the legislature
9 with an evaluation of the program to encourage safe bicycle ridership and recommendations
10 for the program.