



LAWS OF ALASKA

1988

Source

CSSB 480(Fin)

Chapter No.

94

AN ACT

Establishing the Alaska regional economic assistance program;
and providing for an effective date.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1, LINE 10

Approved by the Governor: June 3, 1988
Actual Effective Date: June 4, 1988

AN ACT

Establishing the Alaska regional economic assistance program;
and providing for an effective date.

* Section 1. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of the legislature in establishing the Alaska regional economic assistance program to

(1) encourage the formation of regional development organizations that address the economic problems of specific regions in the state;

(2) coordinate private and public resources to support economic development on a regional basis;

(3) provide the state with information on regional economic issues and opportunities for international trade; and

(4) provide assistance in local economic diversification and development efforts during the current recession to encourage regions of the state to become economically self-sufficient.

* Sec. 2. AS 44.33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 44.33.026. ALASKA REGIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) The department shall

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

1 (2) assist an interested individual in establishing bound-
2 aries for a proposed organization to ensure that the region

3 (A) is of sufficient geographic size and contains a
4 large enough population to form an economically viable unit with
5 shared interests, resources, traditions, and goals;

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

8 (C) contains the entire area of each municipality
9 included in the region;

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

12 (4) serve as liaison between organizations and other state
13 agencies and encourage other agencies to make resources available to
14 help accomplish goals of the organizations;

15 (5) assist each organization to

16 (A) provide services designed to encourage economic
17 development to local communities and businesses;

18 (B) collect and distribute economic information rele-
19 vant to the region;

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

22 (D) develop and implement strategies to attract new
23 industry, expand international trade opportunities, and encourage
24 tourism within the region.

25 (b) Subject to (c) of this section, the department may make
26 regional development grants to organizations for projects the depart-
27 ment determines will be of value in encouraging economic development.
28 During a fiscal year the department may make no more than 15 grants
29 and may only make grants to one organization from a particular region.

1 An organization that is designated an economic development district
2 under 42 U.S.C. 3171 qualifies for grants under this subsection. The
3 department shall by regulation adopt procedures for applying for
4 regional development grants, including application deadlines. The
5 department may by regulation establish additional grant eligibility
6 requirements.

7 (c) To qualify for a grant, a regional development organization
8 must match the grant by providing an amount of money from nonstate
9 sources for the project that equals the amount of grant money to be
10 used for the project. The total amount of grant money provided to an
11 organization during a fiscal year may not exceed \$50,000.

12 (d) There is established in the department the regional develop-
13 ment fund consisting of appropriations to the fund. Money from the
14 fund may be used only for regional development grants.

15 (e) In this section

16 (1) "department" means the Department of Commerce and
17 Economic Development;

18 (2) "regional development organization" or "organization"
19 means a nonprofit organization or nonprofit corporation formed to
20 encourage economic development within a particular region of the state
21 that includes the entire area of each municipality within that region
22 and that has a board of directors that represents the region's eco-
23 nomic, political, and social interests.

24 * Sec. 3. AS 44.33.026 is repealed July 1, 1993.

25 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).