

SENATE BILL NO. 162

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS GREEN, Torgersons

Introduced: 4/20/95

Referred: RES, FIN

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to land used for agricultural purposes and to state land
2 classified for agricultural purposes or subject to the restriction of use for
3 agricultural purposes only; and annulling certain program regulations of the
4 Department of Natural Resources that are inconsistent with the amendments made
5 by this Act."

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

7 * **Section 1.** LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature in amending
8 AS 38.05.321(a) in sec. 9 of this Act that, for state land classified as agricultural land, the
9 state convey fee title subject to a covenant running with the land that limits use of the land
10 to agricultural purposes.

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 38.04.045(b) is amended to read:

12 (b) Before the issuance of a long-term lease under AS 38.05.070 or of a patent
13 for state land, an official cadastral survey shall be accomplished, unless a comparable,

1 approved survey exists that has been conducted by the federal Bureau of Land
2 Management. Before land may be offered under [AS 38.05.055, 38.05.057,] AS 38.08
3 [,] or AS 38.09, or before land may be offered under AS 38.05.055 or 38.05.057,
4 except land that is classified for agricultural uses, an official rectangular survey grid
5 shall be established. The rectangular survey section corner positions shall be
6 monumented and shown on a cadastral survey plat approved by the state. For those
7 areas where the state may wish to convey surface estate outside of an official
8 rectangular survey grid, the commissioner may waive monumentation of individual
9 section corner positions and substitute an official control survey with control points
10 being monumented and shown on control survey plats approved by the state. The
11 commissioner may not issue more than one conveyance for each section within a
12 township outside of an official rectangular survey grid. **Land** [NO PORTION OF
13 LAND] to be conveyed may **not** be located more than two miles from an official
14 survey control monument except that the commissioner may waive this requirement
15 on a determination that a single purpose use does not justify the requirement if the
16 existing status of the land is known with reasonable certainty. The lots and tracts in
17 state subdivisions shall be monumented and the cadastral survey and plats for the
18 subdivision shall be approved by the state. Where land is located within a
19 municipality with planning, platting, and zoning powers, plats for state subdivisions
20 shall comply with local ordinances and regulations in the same manner and to the same
21 extent as plats for subdivisions by other landowners. State subdivisions shall be filed
22 and recorded in the district recorder's office. The requirements of this section do not
23 apply to land made available through a cabin permit system, for material sales, for
24 short-term leases, for parcels adjoining a surveyed right-of-way, or for land that has
25 been open to random staking under the remote parcel program or homestead program
26 in the past; however, for short-term leases, the lessee **shall** [MUST] comply with local
27 subdivision ordinances unless waived by the municipality under procedures specified
28 by ordinance. In this subsection, "a single purpose use" includes a communication site,
29 an aid to navigation, and a park site.

30 * **Sec. 3.** AS 38.04.065(h) is amended to read:

31 (h) Before the commissioner adopts a regional land use plan, a land

1 classification may be made on the basis of a site-specific land use plan, except a
2 classification for a land disposal under AS 38.05.057, AS 38.08, or AS 38.09 [, OR
3 A NEW COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE PROJECT UNDER AS 38.05.020(b)(6)].

4 After adoption of a regional land use plan, land classifications shall be made under the
5 plan.

6 * **Sec. 4.** AS 38.05.020(b) is amended to read:

7 (b) The commissioner may

8 (1) establish reasonable procedures and adopt reasonable regulations
9 necessary to carry out this chapter and, whenever necessary, issue directives or orders
10 to the director to carry out specific functions and duties; regulations adopted by the
11 commissioner shall be adopted under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act); orders
12 by the commissioner classifying land, issued after January 3, 1959, are not required
13 to be adopted under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act);

14 (2) enter into agreements considered necessary to carry out the purposes
15 of this chapter, including agreements with federal and state agencies;

16 (3) review any order or action of the director;

17 (4) exercise the powers and do the acts necessary to carry out the
18 provisions and objectives of this chapter;

19 (5) notwithstanding the provisions of any other section of this chapter,
20 grant an extension of the time within which payments due on any exploration license,
21 lease, or sale of state land, minerals, or materials may be made, including payment of
22 rental and royalties, on a finding that compliance with the requirements is or was
23 prevented by reason of war, riots, or acts of God;

24 (6) classify tracts for agricultural uses [AND REQUIRE THE
25 PREQUALIFICATION, INCLUDING THE SUBMISSION OF CONSERVATION
26 PLANS, DEVELOPMENT PLANS, OR OTHER PLANS, SCHEDULES, OR
27 PROGRAMS, OF PERSONS WHO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN AN
28 AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UNDER AS 44.33.475];

29 (7) waive, postpone, or otherwise modify the development requirements
30 of a contract for the sale of agricultural land if

31 (A) the land is inaccessible by road; or [AND]

1 (B) transportation, marketing, and development costs render the
2 required development uneconomic;

3 (8) reconvey or relinquish land or an interest in land to the federal
4 government if

5 (A) the land is described in an amended application for an
6 allotment under 43 U.S.C. 1617; and

7 (B) the reconveyance or relinquishment is

8 (i) for the purposes provided in 43 U.S.C. 1617; and

9 (ii) in the best interests of the state.

10 * **Sec. 5.** AS 38.05.057(j) is amended to read:

11 (j) The commissioner may require a participant in a lottery under this section
12 for the sale of land that is part of an agricultural development project under **former**
13 AS 44.33.475 to submit a single application for that land. Immediately following the
14 drawing of an applicant's name in the lottery, the applicant shall be given an
15 opportunity to select for purchase one parcel of the land that is offered in the lottery.
16 The names of alternate applicants shall be drawn after all parcels have been selected.
17 If the applicant who originally selected a parcel unequivocally rejects the offer to
18 purchase the parcel or fails to sign the contract of sale within the period of time
19 specified by the commissioner, the parcel shall be offered for sale to alternate
20 applicants in the order in which their names were drawn.

21 * **Sec. 6.** AS 38.05.059 is repealed and reenacted to read:

22 Sec. 38.05.059. SALE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND. The commissioner shall
23 provide for the sale of land classified under AS 38.05.020(b)(6) for agricultural uses
24 in parcels or tracts described by aliquot parts. The parcels or tracts are subject to state
25 subdivision requirements and municipal ordinances.

26 * **Sec. 7.** AS 38.05.065(c) is amended to read:

27 (c) The director shall, for contracts under (a), [OR] (b), **or (h)** of this section,
28 set out in the contract for each sale the period for the payment of installments and the
29 total purchase price plus interest. The director, with the consent of the commissioner,
30 may also include in contracts under this section conditions, limitations, and terms
31 considered necessary and proper to protect the interest of the state. Violations of any

1 provision of this chapter or the terms of the contract of sale subject the purchaser to
2 appropriate administrative and legal action, including but not limited to specific
3 performance, foreclosure, ejectment, or other legal remedies in accordance with
4 applicable state law.

5 * **Sec. 8.** AS 38.05.065(h) is amended to read:

6 (h) The commissioner

7 **(1) shall provide that, notwithstanding (a) and (b) of this section,**
8 **in a contract for the sale of land classified under AS 38.05.020(b)(6) for**
9 **agricultural uses, the interest rate to be charged on installment payments is eight**
10 **percent; and**

11 **(2)** may declare a moratorium of up to five years on payments on **land**
12 **sold under this section for [A SALE OF AGRICULTURAL] land classified under**
13 **AS 38.05.020(b)(6) for agricultural uses [UNDER THIS SECTION] if**

14 **(A)** [(1)] the commissioner determines that the moratorium is
15 in the best interest of the state;

16 **(B)** [(2)] the commissioner certifies and the contract purchaser
17 agrees to perform farm development, crop production, and harvesting, not
18 including land clearing or related activity, requiring the expenditure of amounts
19 equivalent to the payments that would otherwise be made during the
20 moratorium;

21 **(C)** [(3)] the sale of the agricultural land takes place after
22 July 1, 1979; and

23 **(D)** [(4)] the contract purchaser is in compliance with the
24 development plan specified in the purchase contract at the time the purchaser
25 applies for a moratorium under this subsection and remains in compliance with
26 the development plan during the moratorium; **for the payments subject to the**
27 **moratorium declared under this paragraph, interest** [. INTEREST]
28 payments are subject to the moratorium but interest continues to accrue during
29 the moratorium.

30 * **Sec. 9.** AS 38.05.321(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:

31 (a) The department shall include in a document that conveys state land

1 classified as agricultural land

2 (1) a covenant running with the land that restricts or limits the use of
3 the land exclusively for agricultural purposes;

4 (2) a covenant running with the land permitting the owner of state land
5 classified as agricultural land to subdivide and sell the land in parcels of not less than
6 40 acres; and

7 (3) provisions that establish remedies for a breach of the covenants
8 described in (1) and (2) of this subsection.

9 * **Sec. 10.** AS 38.05.321(b) is amended to read:

10 (b) **Subject to (a) of this section, state** [STATE] land classified as agricultural
11 land that has been selected by a municipality under former AS 29.18.190 - 29.18.200
12 or former AS 29.18.205(e) may be approved by the director for patent under
13 AS 29.65.050(c) [; HOWEVER, ONLY RIGHTS IN THE LAND FOR
14 AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES MAY BE TRANSFERRED AND ALL OTHER
15 INTERESTS IN THE LAND WILL REMAIN WITH THE STATE]. Agricultural land
16 approved for patent to a municipality shall be credited, acre for acre, toward fulfillment
17 of that municipality’s entitlement under AS 29.65.010 - 29.65.030 or former
18 AS 29.18.201 - 29.18.203. [IF THE DIRECTOR LATER DETERMINES IT TO BE
19 IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE STATE TO TRANSFER SOME OR ALL OF
20 THE ADDITIONAL RIGHTS IN THAT APPROVED OR PATENTED
21 AGRICULTURAL LAND, THOSE RIGHTS SHALL PASS WITHOUT
22 CONSIDERATION TO THE MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH THE LAND IS
23 LOCATED. THE NOTICE AND REVIEW PROVISIONS OF AS 38.05.945 ARE
24 APPLICABLE TO CONVEYANCE OF RIGHTS UNDER THIS SECTION.]

25 * **Sec. 11.** AS 38.05.321 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

26 (d) For state land classified as agricultural land that is conveyed under (a) of
27 this section,

28 (1) the commissioner may require the landowner to cooperate with the
29 appropriate soil and water conservation district under AS 41.10 in the development and
30 implementation of soil conservation plans as authorized by AS 41.10.110(6);

31 (2) as a condition of the conveyance, the commissioner may not require

1 preparation and implementation of a farm development plan unless the commissioner
2 permits modification of a plan in cases of economic hardship or other extenuating
3 circumstances;

4 (3) the commissioner may not limit

5 (A) the landowner's right to construct improvements related to
6 agricultural use;

7 (B) the landowner's right to use the land and improvements for
8 purposes that are incidental to and not inconsistent with the primary use of the
9 land for agricultural purposes; and

10 (C) the landowner's right to subdivide and sell the land if the
11 resulting parcels are not in violation of the minimum parcel size set out in
12 (a)(2) of this section.

13 (e) In this section, "agricultural purposes" means

14 (1) the production of plants and animals useful to man, including forage
15 and sod crops, grains and feed crops, fruits, trees, and vegetables, dairy animals and
16 products, and livestock;

17 (2) the construction of fixed, permanent, or immovable structures
18 reasonably required for or related to agricultural production, including that farmstead
19 normally required for yards, driveways, parking, barns, and other outbuildings, and
20 similar uses;

21 (3) the use of gravel reasonably required for agricultural production on
22 the parcel conveyed; and

23 (4) removal and disposition of timber in order to bring agricultural land
24 into production.

25 * **Sec. 12.** CONVERSION OF DISPOSALS MADE UNDER AS 38.05.069(c) OR UNDER
26 FORMER AS 38.05.321(a). The provisions of AS 38.05.321(a), as amended by sec. 9 of this
27 Act, apply to state land classified as agricultural land that, under AS 38.05.069(c) or under
28 AS 38.05.321(a) before its amendment by sec. 9 of this Act, was subject to the limitation of
29 the conveyance of only the interest in the land that related to agricultural purposes and that
30 was sold, leased, or disposed of after August 15, 1976, and before the effective date of this
31 Act. The commissioner of natural resources shall issue a new instrument of conveyance for

1 the land that conforms to AS 38.05.321(a) and (d), as amended and enacted by secs. 9 and 11
2 of this Act.

3 * **Sec. 13.** CONVERSION OF DISPOSALS MADE UNDER FORMER AS 38.05.321(b).
4 The provisions of AS 38.05.321(a), as amended by sec. 9 of this Act, apply to state land
5 classified as agricultural land that, under AS 38.05.321(b) before its amendment by sec. 10
6 of this Act, was subject to the limitation of the conveyance of only the interest in the land that
7 related to agricultural purposes and that was conveyed to a municipality after June 30, 1978,
8 and before the effective date of this Act. The commissioner of natural resources shall issue
9 a new instrument of conveyance for the land that conforms to AS 38.05.321, as amended by
10 secs. 9 - 11 of this Act.

11 * **Sec. 14.** The following regulations are annulled: 11 AAC 67.162, 11 AAC 67.165, 11
12 AAC 67.167(d), 11 AAC 67.170, 11 AAC 67.172, 11 AAC 67.175(1), 11 AAC 67.185, 11
13 AAC 67.187, 11 AAC 67.188(a)(3), 11 AAC 67.188(a)(4), 11 AAC 67.188(a)(5), 11 AAC
14 67.188(a)(6), 11 AAC 67.188(b), 11 AAC 67.188(c), 11 AAC 67.190(a), 11 AAC 67.192.