

AMENDMENT # |

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE BERKOWITZ

TO: HB 283

1 Page 1, line 1, following "leases":

2 Insert "; relating to carbon sequestration; and providing for an effective date"

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4 Page 1, following line 13:

5 Insert new bill sections to read:

6 **** Sec. 2.** AS 44.37 is amended by adding new sections to read:

7 **Sec. 44.37.200. Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee.** (a) The
8 Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee is created in the Department of Natural
9 Resources. The committee consists of the following members, who are appointed by
10 and serve at the pleasure of the governor:

11 (1) the chair of the Board of Agriculture and Conservation
12 (AS 03.09.010);

13 (2) one member of the Natural Resource Conservation and
14 Development Board (AS 41.10.040);

15 (3) one member of a soil and water conservation district;

16 (4) the director of the division of agriculture, Department of Natural
17 Resources, or the director's designee;

18 (5) the state forester, or a designee of the state forester;

19 (6) the director of the division of lands, Department of Natural
20 Resources, or the director's designee;

21 (7) a director in the Department of Environmental Conservation with
22 expertise in air and water quality issues, or the director's designee;

23 (8) one person with expertise in carbon sequestration and marketing;

1 (9) one employee each, with suitable expertise, from the United States
2 Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Department of
3 the Interior;

4 (10) one person representing Native forest landowners;

5 (11) one person representing the fossil fuel industry; and

6 (12) one person representing an environmental protection or
7 conservation organization.

8 (b) Members of the advisory committee created in this section do not receive
9 compensation, but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards
10 and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

11 (c) The Department of Natural Resources shall assist the committee with
12 administrative support as reasonably requested by the committee.

13 (d) The Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee may

14 (1) advise and assist the commissioner in preparing the reports
15 required by this chapter and in conducting the assessment required under
16 AS 44.37.210;

17 (2) recommend policies or programs to enhance the ability of the state
18 to participate in systems of carbon trading; the recommendations must include
19 potential policies or programs designed to optimize economic benefits to private
20 landowners participating in carbon transactions; the policies or programs may include
21 identifying existing nonprofit organizations or other public or private entities or the
22 potential of creating nonprofit organizations or other public or private entities capable
23 of serving as assemblers of carbon credits or as intermediaries on behalf of producers
24 in carbon-trading systems;

25 (3) encourage the production of educational and advisory materials
26 regarding carbon sequestration on state and private land and participation in systems
27 of carbon or greenhouse emissions trading;

28 (4) identify and recommend areas of research needed to better
29 understand and quantify the process of carbon sequestration; and

30 (5) review the carbon sequestration programs and policies of other
31 states.

1 **Sec. 44.37.210. Assessment by the commissioner.** (a) In consultation with
 2 the Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee established under AS 44.37.200, the
 3 commissioner shall assess state and private land in the state for past carbon
 4 sequestration and future carbon sequestration potential. The assessment shall seek to
 5 quantify carbon sequestration associated with agricultural, forest, soil, and land
 6 management systems in this state. From time to time, the commissioner may update
 7 the findings as advancements in understanding of the processes of carbon
 8 sequestration and new data become available.

9 (b) The assessment required under this section shall be conducted in a manner
 10 that provides a means for the state and owners of private land to estimate past and
 11 future net carbon sequestration resulting from agricultural and forestry practices,
 12 conservation measures, management systems, and land uses.

13 **Sec. 44.37.220. Definitions.** In AS 44.37.200 - 44.37.220,

14 (1) "carbon sequestration" means the long-term storage of carbon in
 15 forests, soils, the ocean, and other carbon sinks;

16 (2) "commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources.

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

19 **REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.** On or before January 31, 2004, the
 20 commissioner of natural resources, in consultation with the Carbon Sequestration Advisory
 21 Committee established under AS 44.37.200, enacted by sec. 2 of this Act, shall prepare a
 22 report to the legislature. The report must include a discussion of

23 (1) the potential for, and potential forms of, greenhouse emissions regulation;

24 (2) the potential for development of a system or systems of carbon emissions
 25 trading or markets for carbon sequestered on state and private land;

26 (3) agricultural, forest, and soil management systems or land uses that increase
 27 stored soil carbon;

28 (4) methods for measuring and modeling net carbon sequestration associated
 29 with various agricultural, forestry, and soil practices, management systems, or land uses
 30 occurring on state and private land;

31 (5) areas of scientific uncertainty with respect to quantifying and

- 1 understanding carbon sequestration associated with soil and forest management activities;
- 2 (6) recommendations of the Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee
- 3 developed under AS 44.37.200;
- 4 (7) the assessment as described in AS 44.37.210.
- 5 * Sec. 4. Sections 2 and 3 of this Act take effect July 1, 2003."