

SENATE BILL NO. 333

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR THERRIAULT

Introduced: 2/16/04

Referred: Judiciary, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to judicial relief before final administrative decisions of state**
2 **agencies."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 22.10.020(d) is amended to read:

5 (d) The superior court has jurisdiction in all matters appealed to it from a
6 subordinate court, or administrative agency when appeal is provided by law, **and has**
7 **jurisdiction over petitions for relief in administrative matters under**
8 **AS 44.62.305**. The hearings on appeal from a final order or judgment of a subordinate
9 court or administrative agency, except an appeal under AS 43.05.242, shall be on the
10 record unless the superior court, in its discretion, grants a trial de novo, in whole or in
11 part. The hearings on appeal from a final order or judgment under AS 43.05.242 shall
12 be on the record.

13 *** Sec. 2.** AS 44.62 is amended by adding a new section to read:

14 **Sec. 44.62.305. Judicial relief in administrative matters. (a)**

1 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary and except as provided in
2 (e) of this section, a person may obtain judicial relief in an administrative matter by
3 the superior court before the state agency handling the administrative proceeding on
4 the matter issues a final administrative decision if

5 (1) the person is a party to the administrative proceeding;

6 (2) the person has satisfied the procedural requirements of the
7 administrative proceeding up to the time that the person petitions for judicial relief
8 under (b) of this section;

9 (3) the state agency has unreasonably delayed the progress of the
10 administrative proceeding; and

11 (4) further delay in reaching a final administrative decision will cause
12 the person significant and irreparable damage.

13 (b) A person may seek judicial relief under (a) of this section by filing a
14 petition in the superior court.

15 (c) In a proceeding begun under (b) of this section, if the superior court
16 determines that the person is eligible for judicial relief under (a) of this section, the
17 superior court may

18 (1) enjoin the administrative proceeding and determine the
19 administrative matter in the superior court;

20 (2) order that the administrative matter be handled by another form of
21 dispute resolution; or

22 (3) establish a deadline for the state agency to issue a final
23 administrative decision.

24 (d) If the superior court decides that a person is not eligible for judicial relief
25 under (a) of this section, the state agency shall continue the administrative proceeding,
26 and a party to the administrative proceeding may exercise any right of appeal allowed
27 under law for the final administrative decision as if the person had not filed a petition
28 under (b) of this section.

29 (e) A person may not obtain judicial relief under this section in a personnel
30 decision by a state agency.

31 (f) In this section,

1 (1) "administrative matter" means the subject matter of an
2 administrative proceeding;

3 (2) "administrative proceeding" means

4 (A) a proceeding subject to AS 44.62.330 - 44.62.630; and

5 (B) a proceeding that is not subject to AS 44.62.330 -
6 44.62.630, that is authorized by statute for the adjudication of a state agency
7 matter by the state agency handling the matter or by a person appointed by the
8 state agency, and that involves a matter that directly affects the personal,
9 professional, or business interests of a specific person who is named in the
10 adjudication;

11 (3) "damage" means damage to the personal, professional, or business
12 interests of a person;

13 (4) "party" means a specific person whose personal, professional, or
14 business interests are the subject of an administrative proceeding and who is named in
15 the administrative proceeding;

16 (5) "person" does not include a state agency or other governmental
17 agency;

18 (6) "state agency" means a department, an institution, a board, a
19 commission, a division, an authority, and any other administrative unit of the
20 executive branch of state government, except a public corporation; the term includes
21 the University of Alaska.