

HOUSE BILL NO. 132

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES SEATON, Gruenberg, Peggy Wilson

Introduced: 2/13/09

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 an alternative or supplement to motor vehicles;
3 amending the duties of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
4 Development to include administration of state funds appropriated for that purpose;
5 and amending provisions of the program by which state and federal aid allocated for
6 highways may be used to support bicycle paths."

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

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

9 **Article 2. Safe Bicycle Ridership.**

10 **Sec. 29.55.100. Safe bicycle ridership.** (a) To encourage the safe use of
11 bicycles as an alternative or supplement to motor vehicle transportation, the governing
12 body of a municipality may establish a program within the municipality to encourage
13 the distribution, safe use, and maintenance of bicycles, bicycle helmets, and bicycle

1 trailers.

2 (b) The municipality may apply for a grant under AS 44.33.441 to receive
3 funds for the purchase, maintenance, and repair of bicycles, bicycle helmets, and
4 bicycle trailers by municipal residents.

5 * **Sec. 2.** AS 41.21.864(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) Within the limits of available appropriations, a city or borough of any class
7 is entitled to state grants for the purpose of acquiring land or rights-of-way over land
8 and establishing and maintaining trails, bicycle paths, and footpaths on that land or
9 those rights-of-way.

10 * **Sec. 3.** AS 41.21.864(b) is amended to read:

11 (b) Within the limits of available appropriations, the Department of
12 Transportation and Public Facilities is entitled to state grants for the establishment and
13 maintenance of footpaths, bicycle paths, and trails along certain designated existing
14 highways or when a highway, road, or street is being constructed, reconstructed, or
15 relocated [AFTER JUNE 7, 1972].

16 * **Sec. 4.** AS 41.21.868(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) An amount of not less than three-eighths of one percent nor more than one
18 percent of the total yearly state and federal matching sum combined, under the federal-
19 aid highways program (23 U.S.C.), shall be appropriated annually from the general
20 fund to the department for the purposes of providing grants to eligible cities and
21 boroughs for trails, bicycle paths, footpaths, and shelter construction and maintenance
22 in appropriate areas, including [BUT NOT LIMITED TO] existing park and recreation
23 areas, and for the purpose of providing grants to the Department of Transportation and
24 Public Facilities for developing the program specified in AS 41.21.864(b) and
25 41.21.866.

26 * **Sec. 5.** AS 44.33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

27 **Article 6A. Program to Encourage Safe Bicycle Ridership.**

28 **Sec. 44.33.441. Grant program to encourage safe bicycle ridership.** (a) To
29 encourage the regular and safe use of bicycles and bicycling as alternative means of
30 transportation, a grant program is established in the department to allow municipalities
31 and nonprofit organizations within the state to apply for financial assistance to

1 establish programs for the purchase, maintenance, and repair of bicycles, bicycle
2 helmets, and bicycle trailers by residents of the community where the grantee is
3 located.

4 (b) The department shall develop regulations establishing criteria for issuing
5 grants to municipalities and nonprofit organizations for the program, giving priority
6 for receiving grants to municipalities and nonprofit organizations that actively
7 encourage safe bicycling as an alternative means of transportation.

8 (c) The commissioner shall appoint an administrator of the program. The
9 administrator shall

10 (1) educate communities and nonprofit organizations about the
11 program and the grant requirements;

12 (2) receive and evaluate grant applications;

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

15 (d) There is established in the department a fund to encourage safe bicycle
16 ridership. The fund consists of

17 (1) money appropriated to the fund by the legislature to provide grants
18 for the program;

19 (2) gifts, bequests, contributions from other sources, and federal
20 money;

21 (3) interest earned on the fund balance; and

22 (4) investments to be managed by the Department of Revenue, which
23 shall be the fiduciary of the fund under AS 37.10.071.

24 (e) In this section,

25 (1) "department" means the Department of Commerce, Community,
26 and Economic Development;

27 (2) "program" means the grant program described in this section.

28 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
29 read:

30 PROGRAM SURVEY. Not later than

31 (1) December 31, 2010, the Department of Commerce, Community, and

1 Economic Development shall mail a survey to all Alaska residents who received a bicycle or
2 bicycle trailer under the program established in AS 44.33.441, added by sec. 5 of this Act, to
3 evaluate the effectiveness of that program;

4 (2) December 31, 2011, the department shall deliver a report to the legislature
5 with an evaluation of the program to encourage safe bicycle ridership and recommendations
6 for the program.