

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 298(CRA)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/4/22

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SNYDER, Tarr, Rauscher, Vance, Drummond, Tuck, Hopkins, Gillham, Cronk, McCabe, Story, Johnson, Josephson

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1   **"An Act establishing the Alaska Food Strategy Task Force; and providing for an**  
2   **effective date."**

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

4       \* **Section 1.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
5   to read:

6           LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature to establish the Alaska  
7   Food Strategy Task Force to

- 8                   (1) develop a comprehensive statewide food strategy;  
9                   (2) strengthen the state's diverse food systems;  
10                  (3) improve food security for all residents of the state; and  
11                  (4) grow the local food economies of the state.

12       \* **Sec. 2.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
13   read:

14           ALASKA FOOD STRATEGY TASK FORCE. (a) The Alaska Food Strategy Task

1 Force is created in the legislative branch.

2 (b) The executive board of the task force consists of nine members as follows:

3 (1) five members from the Alaska Food Policy Council selected by the  
4 governing board;

5 (2) four members of the Alaska State Legislature appointed as follows:

6 (A) one member from the minority caucus of the senate and one  
7 member from the majority caucus of the senate, appointed jointly by the president of  
8 the senate and speaker of the house of representatives;

9 (B) one member from the minority caucus of the house of  
10 representatives and one member from the majority caucus of the house of  
11 representatives, appointed jointly by the president of the senate and speaker of the  
12 house of representatives.

13 (c) The following commissioners, or their designees, serve as members of the task  
14 force:

15 (1) the commissioner of natural resources;

16 (2) the commissioner of fish and game;

17 (3) the commissioner of health and social services;

18 (4) the commissioner of commerce, community, and economic development;

19 (5) the commissioner of education and early development; and

20 (6) the commissioner of transportation and public facilities.

21 (d) The remainder of the task force consists of 21 members selected by the executive  
22 board, with due regard for broad geographic representation of the state, as follows:

23 (1) one member from a mariculture development organization;

24 (2) one member from an agricultural development organization;

25 (3) one member from a fisheries-related organization;

26 (4) one member from a local food marketing organization;

27 (5) one member from a hunger and nutrition organization;

28 (6) one member from an economic development organization;

29 (7) one member from the food distribution or transportation industry;

30 (8) two members from Alaska Native or intertribal organizations addressing  
31 food sovereignty or Alaska tribal governments;

- (9) two members who are food producers in the state;
- (10) two members from the food service industry;
- (11) one youth member;
- (12) one member who is a faculty member at the University of Alaska Anchorage;
- (13) one member who is a faculty member at the University of Alaska Fairbanks;
- (14) one member who is a faculty member at the University of Alaska Southeast;
- (15) one member who is a faculty member at the Alaska Pacific University;
- and
- (16) three members selected to provide additional expertise in food system development.

(e) The executive board of the task force shall select members to provide expertise in key areas of food system activity, including production, security, and economic, social, and environmental drivers. In this subsection,

(1) "production" includes growing and harvesting, food processing, packaging, distribution, retail, and consumption and waste management;

(2) "security" includes food access, availability, and use.

(f) The executive board of the task force shall select a chair and vice-chair from the executive board.

(g) Members of the task force serve without compensation and may not receive travel and per diem expenses.

(h) The task force shall meet during and between legislative sessions to accomplish its duties. Meetings shall be conducted, and notice of regular meetings provided, under AS 44.62.310 - 44.62.319 (Open Meetings Act). Records of the Alaska Food Strategy Task Force are subject to inspection and copying as public records under AS 40.25.100 - 40.25.295 (Alaska Public Records Act).

(i) The executive board may remove a member of the task force if the member misses more than two meetings in a calendar year without being previously excused or if the member does not contribute in a meaningful way to the activities of the task force. Vacancies on the

1 task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection.

2 (j) The task force shall present state policy, legislation, and strategy implementation  
3 recommendations in the following seven integrated focus areas:

- 4 (1) sustainably growing the agriculture industry;
- 5 (2) sustainably growing markets for locally grown, locally harvested, and  
6 locally processed foods;
- 7 (3) enhancing the climate for food and beverage businesses;
- 8 (4) minimizing food waste and diverting it from the waste stream;
- 9 (5) improving connectivity, efficiencies, and outcomes in state-run programs  
10 affecting food availability and access;
- 11 (6) ensuring food security in rural and urban communities; and
- 12 (7) improving transportation and infrastructure to transfer and deliver food in  
13 the state.

14 (k) The task force shall, in its consideration of the seven integrated focus areas under  
15 (j) of this section, address, at a minimum, the following elements:

- 16 (1) public, nonprofit, and private investment and infrastructure;
- 17 (2) regulatory issues;
- 18 (3) research and development needs;
- 19 (4) environmental changes;
- 20 (5) workforce development needs;
- 21 (6) infrastructure needs and storage;
- 22 (7) high food costs and food access;
- 23 (8) food safety;
- 24 (9) varying scales of food system and storage development;
- 25 (10) innovative technologies for the Circumpolar North;
- 26 (11) adaptation of successful food system policies, models, and programs  
27 across the Circumpolar North and other states;
- 28 (12) Alaska tribal relations as they pertain to food security, food sovereignty,  
29 and local storage methods; and
- 30 (13) emergency preparedness.

31 (l) The task force shall establish advisory committees focused on addressing each of

the six integrated focus areas under (j) of this section and the minimum elements under (k) of this section, and each task force member shall serve on one or more of these committees.

(m) The task force shall present recommendations for metrics appropriate for evaluating food system effects and food security outcomes.

(n) The recommendations of the task force must be

- (1) evidence based;
- (2) stakeholder informed;
- (3) economically sound;
- (4) environmentally sustainable; and
- (5) equitable.

(o) The task force shall develop and present recommendations in three of the integrated focus areas under (j) of this section by August 1, 2023, and recommendations in the remaining three integrated focus areas under (j) of this section by August 1, 2024. The task force shall compile the recommendations into a report and submit the report to the governor, the senate secretary, and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the report is available.

\* **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska enacted in sec. 2(c) of this Act is amended to read:

(c) The following commissioners, or their designees, serve as members of the task force:

- (1) the commissioner of natural resources;
- (2) the commissioner of fish and game;
- (3) the commissioner of health [AND SOCIAL SERVICES];
- (4) the commissioner of commerce, community, and economic development; and
- (5) the commissioner of education and early development.

\* **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITION. The Alaska Food Strategy Task Force created under sec. 2 of this Act shall begin work as soon as a majority of its membership has been selected.

\* **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 - 3 of this Act are repealed June 30, 2025.

- 1     \* **Sec. 6.** Section 3 of this Act takes effect July 1, 2022.
- 2     \* **Sec. 7.** Except as provided in sec. 6 of this Act, this Act takes effect immediately under
- 3     AS 01.10.070(c).