

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATORS KILCHER
AND BEGICH

2 SENATE BILL NO. 80

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to land preference rights
7 to persons for agricultural purposes."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 38.05 is amended by adding a new section to
10 read:

11 Sec. 38.05.069. PREFERENCE TO PERSONS FOR AGRICULTURAL
12 PURPOSES. (a) If the director determines that the highest
13 and best use of unoccupied land is for agricultural purposes,
14 he is authorized to grant to a person owning and using or
15 leasing and using land for agricultural purposes a 60-day
16 first option from the date such land becomes available to
17 the public or 90 days from the effective date of this Act,
18 whichever is later, to purchase unoccupied land situated
19 adjacent to his presently held land; provided the aggregate
20 number of acres owned or leased and acquired under the option
21 shall not exceed 640 acres; and further provided the un-
22 occupied land is used for agricultural purposes for at least
23 one year following purchase.

24 (b) If more than one person is eligible for a first
25 option under (a) of this section, the director shall deter-
26 mine priority on the basis of the proximity of an applicant's
27 land to that of the unoccupied land and the applicant's need
28 for expansion of an economic unit.

29 (c) The director shall sell the lands under this sec-

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tion at their fair appraised market value. The director shall make regulations necessary to ensure that lands sold under this section are for bona fide agricultural purposes and not for speculation.

(d) When not in conflict with this section, other provisions of secs. 45 - 67 of this chapter apply to sales under this section.

(e) For the purposes of this section "agricultural purposes" includes farming, ranching, grazing, and storage or control of agricultural crops or livestock.

