

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ORSINI

CS SENATE BILL NO. 14 (Com.) am

2 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

3 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

4 A BILL

5 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to land classification."

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

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

8 Sec. 38.05.362. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION. (a) Notwith-
9 standing any other provision of law, no less than 80 per cent of state-
10 owned land classified on the effective date of this Act as land capabil-
11 ity classification II or III soil with agricultural potential by the
12 Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture
13 shall be classified by the commissioner, in consultation with other
14 appropriate agencies and entities, for use as agricultural land. The
15 commissioner shall make the classification required under this section
16 within one year of the effective date of this section.

17 (b) After reasonable public notice and no sooner than 30 days
18 before classification under this section, the commissioner or his desig-
19 nee shall hold a public hearing in a central location in the vicinity of
20 the land to be classified, affording all interested persons an opportu-
21 nity to be heard.

22 (c) After land is classified for agricultural use under (a) of
23 this section, a request for a change in the classification shall be sub-
24 mitted in writing to the commissioner. Within 20 days from the date the
25 request for a change is received, the commissioner shall hold a hearing,
26 affording all interested persons the right to be heard. After a hearing,
27 the determination of the commissioner as to approval of the change is
28 final.

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1 (d) The Department of Natural Resources shall promulgate regula-
2 tions to implement the provisions of this section within its jurisdic-
3 tion, including but not limited to the manner of state classification
4 under this section, and any other conditions or limitations necessary
5 for the protection and maintenance of land for agricultural use.
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