

Introduced: 1/25/78
Referred: State Affairs and
Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

2 SENATE BILL NO. 435

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE -- SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing an Alaska agricultural action
7 group."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 38.07 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 ARTICLE 2. AGRICULTURAL ACTION GROUP.

11 Sec. 38.07.070. ALASKA AGRICULTURAL ACTION GROUP. (a) There is
12 established in the Department of Natural Resources the Alaska Agri-
13 cultural Action Group, composed of the following members:

14 (1) the commissioners of commerce and economic development,
15 natural resources, revenue, fish and game, and environmental conserva-
16 tion, or their designees; the chairman is to be designated by the
17 governor from among the members;

18 (2) the director of the division of land and water manage-
19 ment of the Department of Natural Resources;

20 (3) the director of the Department of Agricultural Experi-
21 ment Station of the University of Alaska and three university staff
22 persons selected by the director;

23 (4) two persons from the office of the governor (one of
24 whom is from the division of policy development and planning) and a
25 representative from the Alaska Soil Conservation Board, all selected
26 by the governor;

27 (5) not more than 11 additional persons from the private
28 sector selected by the governor for their interest in and knowledge of
29 agricultural development and affairs, to include at least one commer-

1 cial banker experienced in agricultural financing; and

2 (6) the director of the division of agriculture of the
3 Department of Natural Resources.

4 (b) The group may invite representatives from the soil conserva-
5 tion service, the forest service, or other federal agencies to serve
6 as full members or to otherwise participate in the deliberations of
7 the group.

8 (c) The terms of members of the group from the private sector
9 are four years, except that initial terms shall be staggered so that
10 not more than one-third expire in any one calendar year. Members of
11 the group from the private sector receive no salary but are entitled
12 to per diem and travel expenses authorized for members of state boards
13 and commissions.

14 Sec. 38.07.080. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS. (a) The group shall
15 schedule regular meetings during the year, and may hold special meet-
16 ings upon the call of the chairman or four members of the group.

17 (b) The group may conduct public hearings and receive testimony
18 from representatives of appropriate disciplines, the agriculture
19 industry, and the public. The group may delegate to two or more
20 members the authority to conduct a particular public hearing on behalf
21 of the group.

22 (c) The governor may assign staff personnel of state agencies to
23 work with and assist the group.

24 Sec. 38.07.090. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The group shall function
25 as an integrated governmental and private advisory entity. It shall
26 draw upon the best expertise available in the public and private
27 sectors in order to consider, evaluate, and make recommendations on
28 potential agricultural projects and other agricultural matters brought
29 to its attention by its members or the public. In particular, the

1 group shall:

2 (1) provide a focal point for the advocacy, encouragement,
3 and investigation of future agricultural development in Alaska and the
4 appropriate role of the state government in that development;

5 (2) assess the comparative suitability of various parcels
6 of state and private land for future agricultural development;

7 (3) serve as coordinator for gathering information and data
8 relating to agriculture;

9 (4) investigate and recommend additional forms of economic
10 aid for farmers and farm projects;

11 (5) provide advisory direction on state efforts to repur-
12 chase development rights from private owners of prime agricultural
13 land;

14 (6) provide technical information and make recommendations
15 regarding classification of additional agricultural land;

16 (7) evaluate existing agricultural projects and make recom-
17 mendations respecting farm conservation plans or other desirable
18 procedures or actions for the future; and

19 (8) recommend appropriate activities for the promotion of
20 agriculture in the state.

21 (b) In evaluating any proposed or potential agricultural project,
22 the analysis of the group must include, but need not be limited to:

23 (1) the degree to which the state should encourage or
24 assist the project, and the costs associated with that assistance;

25 (2) opportunities for creation of new or supplementary
26 employment for resident Alaskans;

27 (3) existing or potential markets (domestic and foreign)
28 for the agricultural products contemplated by the project;

29 (4) the likelihood of providing local agricultural products

1 to the Alaskan consumer at lower prices than their imported counter-
2 parts; and

3 (5) the availability of suitable land for the project, and
4 the desirability of using that land for agriculture as opposed to
5 other uses.

6 (c) Recommendations of the group must be transmitted to the
7 governor. The chairman shall submit a report to the legislature at
8 least every three years describing the activities of the group, sum-
9 marizing recommendations on various matters, and indicating the
10 manner in which those recommendations have been incorporated into the
11 activities of state agencies responsible for agriculture matters.

12 Sec. 38.07.100. DEFINITIONS FOR SECS. 70 - 100. As used in
13 secs. 70 - 100 of this chapter, "group" means the Alaska Agricultural
14 Action Group established in sec. 70 of this chapter.
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