

Original sponsor: Rules/Legislative Budget  
and Audit Committee

Offered: 4/14/80  
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE COMMUNITY AND  
REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 932

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An act creating the office of rural development, and  
7 the Rural Development Council; and providing for an  
8 effective date."

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

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\* Section 1. FINDINGS; POLICY, PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds that  
11 there is a public interest in the development of a healthy private economic  
12 base in rural Alaska, that the rural areas of the state and the many small  
13 communities of the state have been in economic crisis for decades, and that  
14 in many rural communities a private economic base has ceased to exist which  
15 conditions endanger the economic, social, and cultural well-being of the  
16 state's rural citizens and the healthy growth and balance of the state's  
17 entire economy. The legislature further finds that while many opportunities  
18 for economic growth may be available to rural areas, the problems of the  
19 state's rural areas are many and complex, spreading beyond the confines or  
20 authority of any one program, any one government, or any one policymaker and  
21 therefore requiring a special initiative on the part of all concerned par-  
22 ties.

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(b) It is the policy of the legislature that

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(1) villages and small communities should have access to economic  
25 development opportunities;

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(2) there is a special commitment to the development of a private  
27 economic base for villages and small communities;

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(3) the state should use its resources and financial strength to  
29 encourage the development of a healthy, self-sustaining rural economy;

1 (4) the state has the primary policy responsibility to act and to  
2 catalyze commitment among many interests, including the state, federal govern-  
3 ment, local governments, and the private sector to promote a private economy  
4 in rural areas;

5 (5) the advocacy of a private economy compatible with rural life-  
6 style should be of the highest priority of state policy;

7 (6) appropriations for rural development from federal money be  
8 expended only with the concurrence of the Rural Development Council.

9 (c) It is the purpose of this Act to create a governmental structure  
10 that will function as an advocate of rural areas and small communities pre-  
11 senting development issues before state, federal, and local governments, and  
12 in the private sectors, and which will assist rural people and institutions  
13 in laying the foundations of a healthy rural private economic base.

14 \* Sec. 2. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

15 ARTICLE 3C. OFFICE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

16 Sec. 44.19.191. OFFICE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT. There is established  
17 in the Office of the Governor the office of rural development. The  
18 director of the office is appointed by the governor and serves at his  
19 pleasure. The governor may consult with the council concerning the  
20 appointment or discharge of the director.

21 Sec. 44.19.201. COUNCIL ESTABLISHED. (a) There is established  
22 the Rural Development Council as the policy council for the office of  
23 rural development. The council consists of

- 24 (1) the lieutenant governor;
- 25 (2) a member of each house of the legislature appointed by  
26 the presiding officer of that house;

- 27 (3) the commissioners of the departments of transportation  
28 and public facilities, commerce and economic development, and community  
29 and regional affairs, and the director of the division of policy de-

1 velopment and planning;

2 (4) six representatives of the private sector appointed by  
3 the governor who are residents of the rural area or small communities;

4 (5) the Alaska state director of the Farmers Home Administra-  
5 tion of the United States Department of Agriculture and a designated  
6 representative of the Region X Rural Development Task Force who are ex  
7 officio members of the council and may attend and participate in all  
8 meetings of the council but may not vote.

9 (b) The members of the council appointed by the governor serve at  
10 the pleasure of the governor.

11 (c) The lieutenant governor is chairman of the council and one of  
12 the legislative members shall be elected by the council as legislative  
13 co-chairman.

14 (d) Members of the council serve without compensation but are  
15 entitled to per diem and travel expenses provided by law for members of  
16 boards and commissions.

17 Sec. 44.19.211. PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL. The purpose of the coun-  
18 cil is to provide policy direction to the office and to assist the  
19 office in the performance of the duties of the office. The council  
20 shall assist in coordinating the economic development activities of all  
21 departments and agencies of government so that the need for those acti-  
22 vities and the impact of those activities on small communities and rural  
23 areas is considered and assist in coordinating the activities of depart-  
24 ments and agencies of government which have field responsibilities in  
25 the rural areas to the extent that those activities relate to economic  
26 development. The council shall also assist the office in its advocacy  
27 function.

28 Sec. 44.19.216. MEETINGS. The council shall meet at the call of  
29 the chairman or legislative co-chairman, at the request of a majority of

1 the members, and at least four times a year at a regularly scheduled  
2 time as determined by the members. The council may convene meetings of  
3 heads of agencies or departments which are concerned with rural matters  
4 or economic development if the council determines a meeting to be useful

5 Sec. 44.19.221. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE. The office shall

6 (1) act as advocate for the development of an economic base  
7 in rural Alaska, for community development and for public services which  
8 will enhance the opportunity for growth of an economic base in rural  
9 Alaska, and for other matters and programs useful to development of the  
10 private economy in rural Alaska;

11 (2) coordinate projects relating to economic development  
12 among departments and agencies;

13 (3) act as advocate for rural development programs which are  
14 not within the jurisdiction of a specific department or agency;

15 (4) act as advocate for appropriate technology development  
16 and the advancement of entrepreneurial opportunities;

17 (5) encourage and assist in the creation and use of regional  
18 development enterprises.

19 Sec. 44.19.226. STAFF. Within budget and appropriation limits,  
20 the director may hire staff and determine their compensation. Except  
21 for making inquiries, neither the council nor an individual member of  
22 the council may give orders to the staff on administrative matters.

23 Sec. 44.19.231. REPORTS. Before January 15 of each year the  
24 office shall submit to the legislature a comprehensive report describing  
25 the activities of the council and the office for the preceding year.

26 Sec. 44.19.236. DEFINITIONS. In AS 44.19.191 - 44.19.236

27 (1) "council" means the Rural Development Council;

28 (2) "director" means the director of the office of rural de-  
29 velopment;

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(3) "office" means the office of rural development.

\* Sec. 3. AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(8) office of rural development and Rural Development Council  
(AS 44.19.191 - 44.19.236) -- June 30, 1987.

\* Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-  
070(c).

