

Introduced: 4/28/81
Referred: Resources and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 538

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to a small-scale agriculture grant
7 program."

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

9 * Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES. (a) The legislature finds that

10 (1) many urban and rural communities in the state need to develop
11 a greater degree of self-sufficiency in producing nutritional foods for
12 local and regional use;

13 (2) there is a need to provide greater opportunities for all
14 Alaskans both individually and collectively to produce their own food; and

15 (3) it is in the interests of the state to encourage and assist
16 in the production of nutritional foods for local and regional use by estab-
17 lishing a small-scale agriculture grant program.

18 (b) It is the purpose of this Act to establish a small-scale agricul-
19 ture grant program that encourages and assists the production of nutritional
20 foods in urban and rural communities of the state so as to promote self
21 sufficiency in those communities and decrease their dependency on imported
22 foods.

23 * Sec. 2. AS 03 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

24 CHAPTER 08. ALASKA SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURE GRANT PROGRAM.

25 Sec. 03.08.010. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. There is established
26 in the Department of Natural Resources a small-scale agriculture grant
27 program which shall offer financial assistance for education, technical
28 training, supplies, equipment, and the administrative and operating
29 costs of developing and implementing small-scale agricultural projects

1 or programs which produce food for local consumption.

2 Sec. 03.08.020. SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURE GRANT FUND. There is
3 created the small-scale agriculture grant fund as an account in the
4 general fund. The department shall make small-scale agriculture grants
5 from the fund in accordance with this chapter.

6 Sec. 03.08.030. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT. (a) The
7 department shall

8 (1) review grant proposals and award grants under this
9 chapter;

10 (2) coordinate the efforts of the University of Alaska and
11 various federal, state, municipal, and private agencies or corporations
12 to promote small-scale agriculture;

13 (3) prepare and submit to the legislature by January 15 each
14 year a report containing a description of the projects or programs
15 which received grants under this chapter during the preceding calendar
16 year and recommendations for financing new or continuing projects
17 during the next calendar year.

18 (b) The department may adopt regulations necessary to carry out
19 the purposes of this chapter.

20 Sec. 03.08.040. ELIGIBILITY AND CONDITIONS. (a) The recipient
21 of a grant may be a municipality, village, school district, regional
22 educational attendance area, or nonprofit corporation.

23 (b) The criteria which the department shall use in determining
24 eligibility for a grant under this chapter for a small-scale agricul-
25 tural project or program include

26 (1) the technical feasibility of the project or program;

27 (2) whether the project or program uses sound soil conserva-
28 tion techniques as established by the Soil Conservation Service, United
29 States Department of Agriculture;

1 (3) the degree of community interest and participation in
2 the project or program;

3 (4) local needs including community needs for locally
4 produced foods;

5 (5) possible educational benefits to residents of the
6 community and to the state.

7 (c) The recipient of a grant shall consult with the Cooperative
8 Extension Service of the University of Alaska for technical assistance
9 in implementing an agricultural project or program.

10 (d) Nothing in this chapter prohibits a small-scale agriculture
11 program from assisting individual food production efforts.

12 Sec. 03.08.050. APPLICATION. An applicant for a grant shall
13 apply to the department on a form prescribed by the department at least
14 60 days preceding the beginning of the calendar year for which the
15 grant is requested. The grant application shall include a plan detail-
16 ing the goals and the general approach of the project or program.

17 Sec. 03.08.060. LIMITATIONS ON GRANTS. (a) A single grant may
18 not exceed \$25,000 for a calendar year. However, similar proposals for
19 small-scale agricultural projects or programs which would serve the
20 same group of recipients may, in the discretion of the commissioner, be
21 combined into a block grant in excess of \$25,000.

22 (b) A grant may not be awarded if the amount proposed to be
23 allocated for the cost of administration of the grant exceeds 20 percent
24 of the total grant requested.

25 (c) The recipient of a grant shall agree, as a condition to
26 receiving the grant, that all educational materials produced, data
27 collected, and facilities constructed with the grant money shall be
28 available to the public for use for public purposes.

29 Sec. 03.08.070. USE OF GRANT MONEY. The recipient of a grant

1 may use the grant for buildings and improvements, supplies, equipment,
2 necessary land acquisition or rental, education, technical training,
3 and operating and administrative costs associated with developing and
4 implementing the small-scale agricultural project or program.

5 Sec. 03.08.080. ACCOUNTING. The recipient of a grant shall
6 submit to the department a report describing the progress of the agri-
7 cultural project or program financed by the grant not less than 60 days
8 before the end of the calendar year for which the grant was made. The
9 report shall include a description of the type and amount of food
10 produced, the problems encountered in the implementation of the project
11 or program, and prospects for the continuation and self-sufficiency of
12 the project or program. The report shall also include a detailed
13 accounting of the grant money spent by the recipient.

14 Sec. 03.08.090. REPAYMENT. If the recipient of a grant fails to
15 complete the project or program in accordance with the grant proposal,
16 fails to comply with any conditions agreed to, or does not disburse all
17 of the grant money received before the end of the calendar year for
18 which the grant was made, he shall return the unexpended portion of the
19 grant to the department within 60 days after the end of the next calen-
20 dar year. However, the department may permit the recipient to retain
21 unexpended grant money for use during the next calendar year if the
22 agricultural project or program is to continue.

23 Sec. 03.08.100. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

24 (1) "calendar year" means January 1 to December 31;

25 (2) "grant" means money available under this chapter for use
26 in small-scale agriculture projects and programs;

27 (3) "recipient" means a municipality, village, school dis-
28 trict, regional educational attendance area, or nonprofit corporation
29 which qualifies for a grant under this chapter;

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(4) "small-scale agriculture" means the growing of food in the state for local consumption.