

Original sponsor: Resources Committee

Offered: 5/14/81  
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 538 (Resources)

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 communities in the state need to develop a greater  
11 degree of self-sufficiency in producing nutritional foods for local and  
12 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 communities of the state so as to promote self-sufficiency in those  
21 communities and decrease their dependency on imported foods.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19           Sec. 03.08.040. ELIGIBILITY AND CONDITIONS. (a) The recipient  
20 of a grant may be a municipality, village, or nonprofit corporation.

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

24           (1) local needs including community needs for locally  
25 produced foods;

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

27           (3) whether the project or program uses sound soil conserva-  
28 tion techniques in accordance with general standards established by the  
29 Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture;

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

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

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

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

10 Sec. 03.08.050. APPLICATION. An applicant for a grant shall  
11 apply to the department on a form prescribed by the department and  
12 shall include in the application a plan detailing the goals and the  
13 general approach of the agricultural project or program.

14 Sec. 03.08.060. LIMITATIONS ON GRANTS. (a) Total grants for a  
15 single village or municipality for agricultural projects or programs  
16 may not exceed \$25,000 for a calendar year. However, the commissioner  
17 may award a grant in excess of \$25,000 for an agricultural project or  
18 program servicing two or more villages or municipalities.

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

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

26 Sec. 03.08.070. USE OF GRANT MONEY. The recipient of a grant may  
27 use the grant for supplies, equipment, education, technical training,  
28 and operating and administrative costs associated with developing and  
29 implementing the small-scale agricultural project or program.

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

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

19           Sec. 03.08.100. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

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

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

23           (3) "recipient" means a municipality, village, or nonprofit  
24 corporation which qualifies for a grant under this chapter;

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

27           (5) "village" means an unincorporated community of 25 or  
28 more residents.

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