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Referred: Resources and
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BETTISWORTH AND ROGERS

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 833

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the responsibilities of the Department of Natural Resources regarding agriculture; terminating the existence of the Alaska Agricultural Action Council; and providing for an effective date."

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

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* Section 1. AS 03 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

12

CHAPTER 1. DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE.

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Sec. 03.01.010. DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE. (a) There is established in the Department of Natural Resources, the division of agriculture.

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(b) The division of agriculture shall be administered by a deputy commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources appointed by the commissioner of natural resources.

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Sec. 03.01.020. DUTIES OF DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE. The division of agriculture shall

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(1) exercise the responsibilities of the Department of Natural Resources under this title;

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(2) make recommendations to the commissioner of natural resources regarding the classification of state land having a potential for agricultural use;

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(3) administer state agricultural development projects;

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(4) conduct studies and carry out experimental and pilot projects to develop markets for agricultural products produced in the state;

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(5) coordinate agricultural research projects with the

1 University of Alaska.

2 Sec. 03.01.030. REPORT ON DIVISION ACTIVITIES. (a) Before
3 January 15 of each year the Department of Natural Resources shall report
4 to the governor and the legislature concerning the activities of the
5 division of agriculture during the current fiscal year. The report may
6 contain recommendations for agricultural development projects in the
7 state during the next fiscal year.

8 (b) An agricultural development project recommended under (a) of
9 this section may not be implemented unless authorized by law.

10 (c) If the report of the department required by (a) of this section
11 includes recommendations for the development of agriculture, the depart-
12 ment shall include in the report proposed legislation that

13 (1) sets out the type of agricultural development to be
14 accomplished and, if state land is to be developed for agricultural
15 production, describes the boundaries of the land to be developed;

16 (2) defines specific tasks to be performed by appropriate
17 state agencies to the extent the tasks are identifiable at that time;
18 and

19 (3) grants to the department sufficient authority to insure
20 cooperation of state agencies involved in the implementation of the
21 agricultural development project.

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

23 CHAPTER 2. BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

24 Sec. 03.02.010. BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. (a) There is established
25 in the Department of Natural Resources the Board of Agriculture consist-
26 ing of seven members appointed by the governor. The presiding officer
27 of the board is designated by the governor from among the members. The
28 governor shall appoint as members of the board individuals having an
29 involvement in agricultural activities in the state.

1 (b) The term of a member of the board is four years. A member
2 appointed to fill a vacancy serves for the unexpired term of the member
3 succeeded.

4 (c) Members of the board are entitled to per diem and travel
5 expenses provided for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.

6 (d) The board shall schedule regular meetings during the year and
7 may hold special meetings on the call of the presiding officer of the
8 board or on the vote of five members of the board.

9 (e) Four members of the board constitute a quorum. An affirmative
10 vote of at least four members is necessary to approve an action of the
11 board.

12 Sec. 03.02.020. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

13 (a) The Board of Agriculture may adopt and amend bylaws for the manage-
14 ment and regulation of its affairs.

15 (b) The board shall

16 (1) hold public hearings in areas of the state considered for
17 agricultural development;

18 (2) coordinate the gathering of information and data relating
19 to agriculture;

20 (3) recommend to the Department of Natural Resources appropri-
21 ate activities for the promotion of agriculture in the state, including
22 agricultural projects and programs, land classifications, and areas for
23 agricultural development;

24 (4) provide technical information and make recommendations to
25 the Department of Natural Resources regarding the classification of
26 state land having a potential for agricultural use;

27 (5) carry out experimental and pilot projects to develop
28 markets for agricultural products produced in the state;

29 (6) contract with the University of Alaska for agricultural

1 research and studies; and

2 (7) recommend to the governor and the legislature improve-
3 ments for agricultural development in the state.

4 * Sec. 3. AS 44.33.450 - 44.33.500 are repealed.

5 * Sec. 4. Notwithstanding the terms of office of the members of the Board
6 of Agriculture specified in AS 03.02.010(b) as enacted in sec. 2 of this Act,
7 the terms of office of the first appointees shall be one member serving a
8 term ending June 30, 1983, two members serving terms ending June 30, 1984,
9 two members serving terms ending June 30, 1985, and two members serving terms
10 ending June 30, 1986. The governor may appoint to the Board of Agriculture
11 members of the Alaska Agricultural Action Council repealed under sec. 3 of
12 this Act who are eligible for membership under AS 03.02.010(a), as enacted in
13 sec. 2 of this Act.

14 * Sec. 5. This Act takes effect July 1, 1982.

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