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Referred: Resources and Finance

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1. IN THE HOUSE

HOUSE BILL NO. 15

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to eligibility for commercial fishing loans."

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

\* Section 1. AS 16.10.310(a) is amended to read:

(a) The department may

(1) make loans to

(A) individual commercial fishermen who have been state residents for a continuous period of one year [FIVE YEARS] immediately preceding the date of application for a loan under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370 and have had a crewmember or commercial fishing license under AS 16.05.480 or a permit under AS 16.43 for any three [ONE] of the past five years, and who actively participated in the fishery during that period, for the purchase of entry permits;

(B) an individual who has been a state resident for a continuous period of one year [FIVE YEARS] immediately preceding the date of application for a loan under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.-370, who

(i) because of lack of training or lack of employment opportunities in the area of residence does not have occupational opportunities available other than commercial fishing; or

(ii) is economically dependent on commercial fishing for a livelihood and for whom commercial fishing has

1           been a traditional way of life [FOR HIM] in Alaska, for the  
2           repair, restoration or upgrading of existing vessels and  
3           gear, for the purchase of entry permits and gear, and for  
4           the construction and purchase of vessels;

5           (C) corporations, partnerships, or joint ventures, 100  
6           percent of which are owned by individual commercial fishermen who  
7           have been state residents for a continuous period of one year  
8           [FIVE YEARS] immediately preceding the date of application for a  
9           loan under AS 16.10.310(a)(1)(B) and have had a crewmember or  
10          commercial fishing license under AS 16.05.480 or a permit under  
11          AS 16.43 for any three [ONE] of the past five years, and who  
12          actively participated in the fishery during that period, for the  
13          repair, restoration or upgrading of existing vessels and gear,  
14          for the purchase of gear, and for the construction and purchase  
15          of vessels;

16          (2) designate agents and delegate its powers to them as  
17          necessary;

18          (3) adopt regulations necessary to carry out its functions;

19          (4) establish amortization plans for repayment of loans,  
20          which may include extensions for poor fishing seasons or for adverse  
21          market conditions for Alaskan products;

22          (5) enter into agreements with private lending institu-  
23          tions, other state agencies, or agencies of the federal government, to  
24          carry out the purposes of AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370;

25          (6) enter into agreements with other agencies or organiza-  
26          tions to create an outreach program to make loans under AS 16.10.300 -  
27          16.10.370 in rural areas of the state.