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Referred: Resources and  
Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY MOSS AND P.FISCHER

2

SENATE BILL NO. 44

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the development of small farms;

7

and providing for an effective date."

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

9 \* Section 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is the policy of the state to  
10 promote the development and stability of small farms as a component of  
11 Alaskan agriculture through the use of a cost-sharing program administered  
12 by the department for clearing and breaking land in a manner consistent  
13 with soil and water conservation policies.

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

15 CHAPTER 12. ALASKA SMALL FARM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

16 Sec. 03.12.010. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. The department shall  
17 establish and administer a program of cost sharing for the development  
18 of small farms by offering financial assistance for the clearing and  
19 breaking of land to owners or holders of agricultural rights to eli-  
20 gible land.

21 Sec. 03.12.020. ELIGIBLE LAND. (a) Only land that the depart-  
22 ment determines has a soil capability classification of II or III is  
23 eligible for the cost-sharing program under this chapter.

24 (b) Land that contains timber with commercial value is not  
25 eligible for the cost-sharing program under this chapter until the  
26 timber on that land has been used.

27 (c) Land that is the subject of a long-term agricultural loan  
28 for clearing under AS 03.10 is not eligible for the cost-sharing  
29 program under this chapter.

1           (d) In order for land to be eligible for the cost-sharing pro-  
2 gram under this chapter, all the land controlled by the applicant must  
3 be managed in a manner consistent with the principles of soil and  
4 water conservation as determined by the department or the Agricultural  
5 Stabilization and Conservation Service of the United States Department  
6 of Agriculture.

7           Sec. 03.12.025. ELIGIBLE PERSONS. If the agricultural rights to  
8 land eligible for the cost-sharing program are held by a person other  
9 than the owner of the land, the holder of those agricultural rights is  
10 the only person eligible to submit the development plan and to receive  
11 money under the cost-sharing program.

12           Sec. 03.12.030. DEVELOPMENT PLAN REQUIRED. (a) In order to  
13 receive cost-sharing money from the department to clear and break  
14 land, the owner of land or, if the agricultural rights are held by a  
15 person other than the owner, the holder of agricultural rights to the  
16 land must submit a development plan for approval by the department.

17           (b) In preparing a development plan under this section the owner  
18 of the eligible land or the holder of agricultural rights to the land  
19 must obtain technical services and consultation from the Agricultural  
20 Stabilization and Conservation Service of the United States Department  
21 of Agriculture.

22           Sec. 03.12.040. LIMITATION ON COST-SHARING MONEY. The depart-  
23 ment may pay a person with an approved development plan cost-sharing  
24 money subject to the following limitations:

25                   (1) 75 percent of the cost of clearing land up to a maximum  
26 of \$200 per acre or 75 percent of the cost of breaking up land to a  
27 maximum of \$100 per acre;

28                   (2) \$7,500 per farm in one calendar year; and

29                   (3) \$30,000 per farm.

1           Sec. 03.12.050. REPAYMENT OF COST SHARING. (a) If the eligible  
2 land is not put into production as crop or pasture land within three  
3 years after cost-sharing money is received under this chapter, that  
4 money shall be repaid to the department by the recipient.

5           (b) If eligible land does not remain in production as crop or  
6 pasture land for five out of seven consecutive years after cost-  
7 sharing money is received from the department, that cost-sharing money  
8 shall be repaid to the department by the recipient.

9           Sec. 03.12.060. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "department" means  
10 the Department of Natural Resources.

11 \* Sec. 2. AS 03.12 is repealed on June 30, 1988.

12 \* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1983.