

Introduced: 2/17/86  
Referred: Labor & Commerce  
and Finance

BY HERRMANN, WALLIS AND  
THOMPSON

1 IN THE HOUSE

HOUSE BILL NO. 658

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act creating a division of rural economic devel-  
7 opment."

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

9 \* Section 1. AS 44.33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 ARTICLE 1A. DIVISION OF RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

11 Sec. 44.33.070. DIVISION OF RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. (a)

12 There is the division of rural economic development in the Department  
13 of Commerce and Economic Development.

14 (b) The division of rural economic development shall

15 (1) promote development of the underutilized resources of  
16 rural areas;

17 (2) assist rural communities in achieving their economic  
18 development goals;

19 (3) promote employment opportunities that are compatible  
20 with a subsistence economy and complimentary with existing seasonal  
21 employment in rural areas;

22 (4) locate sources of funding available for rural economic  
23 development and transmit this information to rural communities;

24 (5) provide technical assistance to rural communities in  
25 applying for state and federal economic assistance programs, in  
26 planning for economic growth, and in managing economic development  
27 projects;

28 (6) coordinate and develop the functions of the department  
29 that are relevant to rural areas;

1           (7) identify regions where common social, economic, and  
2 geographic factors will promote widespread sharing of the benefits of  
3 economic development within the region; and

4           (8) develop regional economic development plans that con-  
5 sider the human and natural resources available, the maintenance of  
6 the traditional economic base, the immediate and long-term economic  
7 needs, the prospect for economic development without governmental  
8 assistance, an assessment of the availability of governmental assis-  
9 tance, and prospects for the region in the absence of economic devel-  
10 opment.

11           (c) The director of the division

12           (1) must be familiar with the economy, resources, life-  
13 styles, cultures, and development problems in rural areas;

14           (2) shall be located in Anchorage;

15           (3) shall coordinate the activities of the regional and  
16 field staffs in order to promote balanced distribution of benefits  
17 from economic development in rural areas; and

18           (4) shall promote the effective and efficient use of avail-  
19 able economic development funds in rural areas.

20           (d) The regional and field staff of the division of rural eco-  
21 nomic development

22           (1) must be familiar with the economy, resources, life-  
23 styles, cultures, and development problems of the region they serve;

24           (2) shall be the division's contact with the residents,  
25 local governments, businesses, and regional and village Native corpo-  
26 rations in rural areas; and

27           (3) must reside in the area they serve.

28           (e) The technical staff of the division of rural economic devel-  
29 opment

1 (1) must be familiar with the social, political, economic,  
2 and governmental processes of economic development;

3 (2) shall work closely with the regional and field staff  
4 and with state, federal, and private economic development agencies to  
5 achieve the goals of rural economic development plans.

6 (f) the division shall establish and maintain regional offices  
7 as follows:

- 8 (1) Southeastern region;  
9 (2) Southcentral-Interior region;  
10 (3) Kodiak region;  
11 (4) Bristol Bay region;  
12 (5) Yukon River region;  
13 (6) Lower Kuskokwim region;  
14 (7) Norton Sound region;  
15 (8) Arctic region.

16 (g) the regional offices in the Kodiak and Bristol Bay regions,  
17 in the Yukon River and the Lower Kuskokwim regions, and in the Norton  
18 Sound and Arctic regions shall each share field staff between the two  
19 regions.

20 \* Sec. 2. The regional offices of the division of rural economic devel-  
21 opment established in sec. 1 of this Act shall serve rural areas in the  
22 following House Districts as the districts exist on the effective date of  
23 this Act:

- 24 (1) Southeastern region -- House Districts 1 - 4;  
25 (2) Southcentral-Interior region -- House Districts 5 -  
26 21;  
27 (3) Kodiak region -- House District 27;  
28 (4) Bristol Bay region -- House District 26;  
29 (5) Yukon River region -- House District 24;

- 1 (6) Lower Kuskokwim region -- House District 25;
- 2 (7) Norton Sound region -- House District 23;
- 3 (8) Arctic region -- House District 22.