

Introduced: 2/22/88  
Referred: Labor and Commerce  
and Finance

5-1480A

BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE BILL NO. 480

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Alaska regional economic  
7 assistance program; and providing for an effective  
8 date."

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

10 \* Section 1. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of the legislature in estab-  
11 lishing the Alaska regional economic assistance program to

12 (1) encourage the formation of regional development organiza-  
13 tions that address the economic problems of specific regions in the state;

14 (2) coordinate private and public resources to support economic  
15 development on a regional basis;

16 (3) provide the state with information on regional economic  
17 issues and opportunities for international trade; and

18 (4) provide assistance in local economic diversification and  
19 development efforts during the current recession to encourage regions of  
20 the state to become economically self-sufficient.

21 \* Sec. 2. AS 44.33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

22 Sec. 44.33.026. ALASKA REGIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

23 (a) The department shall

24 (1) encourage the formation of regional development orga-  
25 nizations by providing assistance in forming organizations to inter-  
26 ested individuals, including information on how to qualify and apply  
27 for regional development grants and federal funding under 42 U.S.C.  
28 3121 - 3246 (Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965), as  
29 amended;

1 (2) assist an interested individual in establishing bound-  
2 aries for a proposed organization to ensure that the region  
3 (A) is of sufficient geographic size and contains a  
4 large enough population to form an economically viable unit with  
5 shared interests, resources, traditions, and goals; and  
6 (B) contains at least one municipality that serves as  
7 a regional center;  
8 (3) gather information about regional economic issues,  
9 international trade, and tourism from organizations;  
10 (4) serve as liaison between organizations and other state  
11 agencies and encourage other agencies to make resources available to  
12 help accomplish goals of the organizations;  
13 (5) assist each organization to  
14 (A) provide services designed to encourage economic  
15 development to local communities and businesses;  
16 (B) collect and distribute economic information rele-  
17 vant to the region;  
18 (C) participate in state marketing campaigns and join  
19 state trade missions that are relevant to the region; and  
20 (D) develop and implement strategies to attract new  
21 industry, expand international trade opportunities, and encourage  
22 tourism within the region.  
23 (b) Subject to (c) of this section, the department may make  
24 regional development grants to organizations for projects the depart-  
25 ment determines will be of value in encouraging economic development.  
26 During a fiscal year the department may only make grants to one orga-  
27 nization from a particular region. An organization that is designated  
28 an economic development district under 42 U.S.C. 3171 qualifies for  
29 grants under this subsection. The department shall by regulation

1 adopt procedures for applying for regional development grants, includ-  
2 ing application deadlines. The department may by regulation establish  
3 additional grant eligibility requirements.

4 (c) To qualify for a grant, a regional development organization  
5 must match the grant by providing an amount of money from nonstate  
6 sources for the project that equals the amount of grant money to be  
7 used for the project. The total amount of grant money provided to an  
8 organization during a fiscal year may not exceed \$50,000.

9 (d) There is established in the department the regional develop-  
10 ment fund consisting of appropriations to the fund. Money from the  
11 fund may be used to carry out the purposes of this section and for  
12 costs of administering the Alaska regional economic assistance pro-  
13 gram. An appropriation to the regional development fund lapses to the  
14 fund from which it was appropriated July 1, 1993, unless otherwise  
15 provided in the appropriation act.

16 (e) In this section

17 (1) "department" means the Department of Commerce and  
18 Economic Development;

19 (2) "regional development organization" or "organization"  
20 means a nonprofit corporation formed to encourage economic development  
21 within a particular region of the state with a board of directors  
22 that represents the region's economic, political, civic and social  
23 interests, and that includes at least one municipal official, one  
24 person from the local private business sector, and one person who  
25 represents the local Native community.

26 \* Sec. 3. AS 44.33.026 is repealed July 1, 1993.

27 \* Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).