

Offered: 3/15/88  
Referred: Finance

5-1480B

Original sponsor: Special Committee on  
Local and Regional  
Economic Opportunity

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE LABOR AND  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 480 (L&C)

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;  
6 (B) contains at least one municipality that serves as  
7 a regional center; and  
8 (C) contains the entire area of each municipality  
9 included in the region;  
10 (3) gather information about regional economic issues,  
11 international trade, and tourism from organizations;  
12 (4) serve as liaison between organizations and other state  
13 agencies and encourage other agencies to make resources available to  
14 help accomplish goals of the organizations;  
15 (5) assist each organization to  
16 (A) provide services designed to encourage economic  
17 development to local communities and businesses;  
18 (B) collect and distribute economic information rele-  
19 vant to the region;  
20 (C) participate in state marketing campaigns and join  
21 state trade missions that are relevant to the region; and  
22 (D) develop and implement strategies to attract new  
23 industry, expand international trade opportunities, and encourage  
24 tourism within the region.  
25 (b) Subject to (c) of this section, the department may make  
26 regional development grants to organizations for projects the depart-  
27 ment determines will be of value in encouraging economic development.  
28 During a fiscal year the department may make no more than 15 grants  
29 and may only make grants to one organization from a particular region.

1 An organization that is designated an economic development district  
2 under 42 U.S.C. 3171 qualifies for grants under this subsection. The  
3 department shall by regulation adopt procedures for applying for  
4 regional development grants, including application deadlines. The  
5 department may by regulation establish additional grant eligibility  
6 requirements.

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

12 (d) There is established in the department the regional develop-  
13 ment fund consisting of appropriations to the fund. Money from the  
14 fund may be used only for regional development grants. An appro-  
15 priation to the regional development fund lapses to the fund from  
16 which it was appropriated July 1, 1993, unless otherwise provided in  
17 the appropriation act.

18 (e) In this section

19 (1) "department" means the Department of Commerce and  
20 Economic Development;

21 (2) "regional development organization" or "organization"  
22 means a nonprofit corporation formed to encourage economic development  
23 within a particular region of the state that includes the entire area  
24 of each municipality within that region and that has a board of  
25 directors that represents the region's economic, political, civic and  
26 social interests.

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

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