

Offered: 4/13/88
Referred: Rules

5-1480L

Original sponsor: Special Committee on
Local and Regional
Economic Opportunity

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 480 (Finance)
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.

15 (e) In this section

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

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

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 AS 44.33.026 is repealed July 1, 1993.

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