

CHAPTER 62

AN ACT

[H. B. 85]

To create the Soil Conservation District of Alaska and prescribe its powers; to establish the Alaska Soil Conservation Board and the Conservation Advisory Committee and define their duties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known and cited as the Soil Conservation District Law.

Policy.

Section 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF POLICY. The farm, forest and grazing lands of Alaska are basic assets of the Territory. It is declared to be the policy of this Act, in the interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the Territory, to provide for the development, use and conservation of these lands in accordance with their capabilities.

Purpose.

Section 3. SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT. There is hereby created, as a public body corporate and politic, the Soil Conservation District of Alaska, comprising the area of the Territory, to provide a means for the orderly development of lands, for guiding settlement, and for conserving soil and soil resources and controlling and preventing soil erosion within the Territory.

Board membership.

Section 4. ALASKA SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD; CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE. There is hereby created, as an agency of the Territory, the Alaska Soil Conservation Board consisting of three bona fide farmers, who are interested in conservation of land resources, appointed by the Board of Administration acting by a majority of its members, after consultation with the

Conservation Advisory Committee established herein. The terms of office of members of the Board shall be three years, except that those first appointed shall be designated to serve for terms of one, two and three years, respectively. The members of the Board shall receive no compensation. The Board may adopt rules and regulations necessary for the execution of its functions and shall keep a record of its official actions. It may employ necessary employees, designate agents, and delegate to any member, employee or agent such powers and duties as it may deem proper. It may call upon the Attorney General of Alaska for legal services. The Board shall designate its Chairman and may change such designation from time to time.

Board may
adopt rules.

There is hereby established a Conservation Advisory Committee, which will be advisory to the Alaska Soil Conservation Board herein created. The Committee shall consist of the General Manager of the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, the Regional Forester of the United States Forest Service, the Area Supervisor, for Alaska, of the United States Farmers' Home Administration, the Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service of the University of Alaska, and the Territorial Commissioner of Agriculture.

Conservation
Advisory
Committee.

Section 5. POWERS OF THE DISTRICT. The Soil Conservation Board shall be the governing body of the district and shall have the following powers:

Authority.

1. To conduct land capability surveys and investigations of potential agricultural areas and of soil conservation and erosion control, including necessary preventative and control measures, in the Territory; to publish the results of such surveys and investigations and to disseminate information concerning the results of such surveys and investigations to prospective settlers and the general public.

Land surveys.

Technical
guidance

2. To make technical guidance and other assistance available to settlers of new land so as to assure the development of such land in a manner that will permit it to be used in accordance with its capabilities and treated in accordance with its needs.

Soil conservation.

3. To carry out measures for soil conservation and erosion control within the district, including but not limited to engineering operations, methods of cultivation, the growing of vegetation, and changes in use of land, with the consent and cooperation of the land occupier or agency having jurisdiction thereof.

Make and enter
agreements.

4. To cooperate with, furnish assistance to, and enter into agreements with, any occupier of land or agency, governmental or otherwise, within the district, subject to such conditions as the district governing body may deem necessary to advance the purposes of this Act.

5. To construct, improve and maintain such soil erosion control and conservation structures as may be necessary and practical for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Develop plans.

6. To develop comprehensive plans for the conservation of soil and control of soil erosion within the district, cropping programs, tillage practices and changes in land use, and to publish such plans and information and bring them to the attention of occupiers of lands within the district.

Accept
contributions.

7. To accept contributions in money, services, materials, equipment, or otherwise, from the United States or any of its agencies, from any agency of the Territory, and from any other source, for use in carrying out the purposes of this Act.

8. No survey, investigation or plan for any particular land shall be undertaken by the district, nor shall any

measures for soil conservation and erosion control thereon be carried out, without the prior approval of the occupier of such land. Consent of occupier required.

9. To create sub-districts of the Soil Conservation District of Alaska, upon the petition of 25 or more land occupiers setting forth the proposed boundaries of the sub-district, and after an adequately advertised favorable public hearing has been held at a convenient location or locations within the boundaries of the proposed sub-district; to fix the boundaries of any sub-districts so created; to supervise the election of, prescribe the duties of, and install a governing body of 5 land occupiers to be known as District Supervisors for each sub-district created; and to delegate to the District Supervisors such of the district's powers, as set out in this section, as the Board deems necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act within the sub-district boundaries. Create sub-districts.

For the purposes of this Act, the term "land occupier" or "occupier of land" means any person, firm or corporation who shall hold title to, or shall be in possession of, three or more acres of land in the Territory, whether as owner, lessee, renter, tenant, or otherwise.

Section 6. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of this Act, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the Application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby. Saving clause.

Approved March 25, 1947.