



LAWS OF ALASKA

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Source
CSHB 197(FIN)

Chapter No.

AN ACT

Relating to the duties of the commissioner of natural resources; relating to agriculture; relating to the noncommercial transfer of seed; and relating to community seed libraries.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

AN ACT

1 Relating to the duties of the commissioner of natural resources; relating to agriculture;
2 relating to the noncommercial transfer of seed; and relating to community seed libraries.

3

4 * **Section 1.** AS 03.05.010(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) The commissioner of natural resources shall

6 (1) direct, administer, and supervise promotional and experimental
7 work, extension services, and agricultural projects for the purpose of promoting and
8 developing **commercial and noncommercial** [THE] agricultural industry **in**
9 [WITHIN] the state, including [SUCH FIELDS AS] horticulture, dairying, cattle
10 raising, fur farming, grain production, vegetable production, and [DEVELOPMENT
11 OF OTHER] agricultural products;

12 (2) procure and preserve all information pertaining to **developing** the
13 [DEVELOPMENT OF THE] agricultural industry **in the state** and disseminate that

1 information to the public;

2 (3) assist prospective settlers and others [DESIRING] to engage in the
3 agricultural industry in the state **by providing** [WITH] information **about**
4 [CONCERNING AREAS SUITABLE FOR AGRICULTURE AND OTHER]
5 activities and programs essential to **developing** the [DEVELOPMENT OF THE]
6 agricultural industry **and areas** in the state **that are suitable for agriculture**;

7 (4) review the marketing, financing, **transportation**, and development
8 of agricultural products **in** [INSIDE] the state [INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION],
9 with special emphasis **on** [UPON] local production, and negotiate for the marketing of
10 agricultural products of the state with federal and state agencies operating in the state;

11 (5) regulate and control the entry **in** [INTO] the state and the
12 transportation, sale, or use **in** [INSIDE] the state of plants, seeds, vegetables, shell
13 eggs, fruits and berries, nursery stock, animal feeds, remedies and mineral
14 supplements, fertilizers, and agricultural chemicals [IN ORDER] to prevent the spread
15 of pests, diseases, or toxic substances injurious to the public interest [,] and [TO]
16 protect the agricultural industry against fraud, deception, and misrepresentation; **for**
17 **purposes of this paragraph**, [IN THIS CONNECTION] the commissioner may
18 require registration, inspection, and testing, and **may** establish procedures and fees;

19 (6) regulate the farming of elk in a manner similar to the manner in
20 which the commissioner regulates domestic animals and livestock, to the extent that is
21 appropriate;

22 (7) **regulate the labeling of seed that does not comply with the**
23 **requirements of AS 03.20.130** [REPEALED].

24 * **Sec. 2.** AS 03.05.030 is amended to read:

25 **Sec. 03.05.030. Rules for grading and classification of agricultural**
26 **products. Subject to (b) of this section, the** [THE] commissioner may adopt rules,
27 regulations, and procedures requiring the classification, grading, and inspection of
28 agricultural products **before the products are** sold or offered for sale for general
29 consumption [BEFORE THEY ARE SOLD], and requiring the marking or labeling of
30 **a** [ANY] sack, box, carton, or other container of **an** agricultural **product**
31 [PRODUCTS] to show the kind, grade, or other prescribed classification of the

1 container's contents.

2 * **Sec. 3.** AS 03.05.030 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

3 (b) A rule, regulation, or procedure adopted under (a) of this section does not
4 apply to the noncommercial transfer of seed under AS 03.20.110 or the giving or
5 exchanging of seed through a community seed library under AS 03.20.120(a), unless
6 the seed

7 (1) does not comply with requirements applicable under AS 03.20;

8 (2) contains seed of a patented, protected, or proprietary variety used
9 without permission of the patent or certificate holder of the intellectual property
10 associated with the variety;

11 (3) has been misrepresented as seed classified, graded, or inspected
12 under (a) of this section; or

13 (4) contains prohibited or restricted weed seed or seed from a species
14 the department has determined is noxious.

15 * **Sec. 4.** AS 03.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

16 **Article 1A. Noncommercial Transfer of Seed and Community Seed Libraries.**

17 **Sec. 03.20.110. Noncommercial transfer of seed.** An individual may give to
18 or exchange with another individual for noncommercial use in the state seed that is
19 otherwise legal to possess in the state.

20 **Sec. 03.20.120. Community seed libraries.** (a) A person may establish a
21 community seed library for individual giving or exchanging of seed that is intended
22 for home, educational, charitable, or noncommercial use in the state and that is
23 harvested from a plant grown

24 (1) outside the state and imported into the state in compliance with
25 AS 03.05.010(a)(5); or

26 (2) in the state.

27 (b) A person may give seed to or exchange seed with another person through a
28 community seed library established under (a) of this section.

29 (c) Seed given, exchanged, or offered for giving or exchanging under (b) of
30 this section must be

31 (1) packaged either in the original package or repackaged; and

1 (2) except as provided in (d) of this section, labeled with the following
2 information on each package:

3 (A) the common name of the plant from which the seed
4 derives;

5 (B) the name and address of the community seed library;

6 (C) the statement "Not authorized for commercial use and not
7 classified, graded, or inspected by the State of Alaska"; and

8 (D) if treated with a toxic substance, the statement "Treated
9 seed--Not for consumption."

10 (d) A person who is giving, exchanging, or offering a seed package at a
11 community seed library may satisfy the labeling requirement under (c)(2) of this
12 section by displaying a sign near the packaged seed that identifies the seed and clearly
13 states the information required under (c)(2) of this section.

14 **Sec. 03.20.130. Limitations.** A person may not give seed to or exchange seed
15 with another person under AS 03.20.110 and 03.20.120 in an amount that, for each
16 person who receives the seed, exceeds 100 pounds.

17 **Sec. 03.20.140. Online publication of noncommercial giving or exchanging**
18 **of seed.** A person involved in noncommercial giving or exchanging of seed under
19 AS 03.20.110 and 03.20.120 may register online with the department under
20 AS 44.37.030(b) and submit to the department information, including the person's
21 name, telephone number, and electronic mail address, and the location where the
22 person gives or exchanges seed, for publication on the department's Internet website.

23 **Sec. 03.20.150. Applicability of other laws.** Nothing in AS 03.20.110 -
24 03.20.150 authorizes a person to

25 (1) violate 7 U.S.C. 2321 - 2582 (Plant Variety Protection Act of
26 1970);

27 (2) give, exchange, or receive a seed

28 (A) from a plant that is regulated as

29 (i) a controlled substance under AS 11.71 or a drug
30 under AS 17.20; or

31 (ii) marijuana under AS 17.38; or

1 (B) patented under 35 U.S.C. 161 - 164 (Plant Patent Act of
2 1930);

3 (3) possess, give, or exchange seed that is considered to be noxious,
4 invasive, or toxic under AS 03.05 or AS 44.37 or a regulation adopted under those
5 chapters.

6 * **Sec. 5.** AS 03.22.020 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 03.22.020. Purpose of center.** The objectives of the plant materials
8 center, in cooperation with the college or department of the University of Alaska
9 responsible for the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, are to

10 (1) assemble, evaluate, select, and increase plant materials needed in
11 soil and water conservation, agriculture, and industry, and maintain genetic purity of
12 these materials;

13 (2) increase promising plant materials for field scale testing;

14 (3) test the promising materials in field plantings on sites that represent
15 soil and climatic conditions not found at the center;

16 (4) maintain and provide for increase of basic seed stocks of plant
17 materials for agricultural and conservation interests;

18 (5) make seed and plant materials available, for a fee if necessary, in
19 such a manner as to avoid monopolistic control of basic stocks of these materials and
20 encourage the development of a seed industry, **noncommercial transfer of seed, and**
21 **community seed libraries established under AS 03.20.120;**

22 (6) support but not duplicate activities carried on by state or federally
23 funded research programs in the state;

24 (7) prepare, publish, and disseminate a summary report on all studies
25 as they are completed.

26 * **Sec. 6.** AS 44.37.030 is amended to read:

27 **Sec. 44.37.030. Duties of department with respect to agriculture.** The
28 Department of Natural Resources shall

29 (1) **obtain and publish** [GET AND DISTRIBUTE] information
30 **electronically and in print** on subjects connected with agriculture, **including**
31 **community seed libraries established under AS 03.20.120;**

1 (2) control and regulate the entry and transportation of seeds, plants,
2 and other horticultural products;

3 (3) control and eradicate the spread of pests injurious to plants, trees,
4 vegetables, livestock, **and** poultry;

5 (4) aid in developing used and unused agricultural resources; and

6 (5) experiment and determine practical methods of growing,
7 processing, soil analysis, eradication of obnoxious weeds, control of insects, and
8 cheaper and more satisfactory methods of land clearing.

9 * **Sec. 7.** AS 44.37.030 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (b) The Department of Natural Resources may

11 (1) advise persons who establish or operate a community seed library
12 under AS 03.20.120; and

13 (2) post on the department's Internet website and annually update the
14 following:

15 (A) information about noncommercial giving or exchanging of
16 seed, including information about community seed libraries established under
17 AS 03.20.120, community seed library locations, community seed library
18 facilitators, and best practices for noncommercial giving or exchanging of
19 seed;

20 (B) an online registration form for a person involved in
21 noncommercial giving or exchanging of seed to submit to the department for
22 publication, without a fee, information under AS 03.20.140;

23 (C) information provided for publication under (B) of this
24 paragraph.