

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Sponsor Statement

SB 62 - Ak Regional Economic Assistance Program

This bill extends the termination date of the Alaska Regional Economic Assistance Program. The program is the funding source for the Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDOR) program.

The ARDOR Program is the State's contribution to regional initiatives for developing Alaska's economy. In 1988, the Legislature established the ARDOR Program to create a network of organizations to plan and support economic development at the regional level.

There are currently 13 ARDOR's. The ARDORs, like their counterparts nationwide:

- Enable local officials and businesses to pool their limited resources and work together on economic development issues,
- Develop partnerships among public, private and other organizations, and
- Provide needed technical assistance via direct links with local citizens.

The ARDOR Program is providing a return for the State's investment. The State provides \$620,000 in grant funds for the ARDOR Program. In turn, the ARDORs have used the \$620,000 in State grant funds to leverage over \$3.6 million in other funds.

Board member participation reflects a local commitment to the ARDOR Program. The 13 ARDOR boards, each with 10-20 members, constitutes 150 plus local, civic-minded individuals who volunteer their time to achieve a stronger economic base in their region.

Supplemental Information
SB 62 - AK REGIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Alaska Regional Development Organizations -- ARDORs

There are currently 13 ARDORs that cover all parts of Alaska with the exception of a portion of the interior and the Lower Yukon.

1. Anchorage Economic Development Corporation;
2. Arctic Development Council;
3. Bering Straits ARDOR Program;
4. Copper Valley Economic Development Council;
5. Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission;
6. Interior Rivers Resource Conservation & Development;
7. Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District;
8. Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council;
9. Mat-Su Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.;
10. Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission;
11. Prince William Sound Economic Development Commission;
12. Southeast Conference;
13. Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference.

The lower Yukon ARDOR was decertified in 2002.

Source: Department of Community & Economic Development
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/cbd/ardor/ardor.htm>

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