

ALASKA STATE HOUSE

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REPRESENTATIVE DAVE TALERICO

Sponsor Statement for House Bill 183

“An Act relating to the state land disposal bank; relating to the land disposal program; providing for a state program that sells state land to an individual eligible for permanent fund dividend; allowing an individual to use permanent fund dividends to purchase certain land from the state; requiring the Department of Revenue to confirm the eligibility of an individual to receive a dividend for the purposes of a state land sale program; and providing for an effective date.

The State of Alaska has thousands of acres of good quality land that produces no revenue or as a usable human resource. Less than 5 percent of the land in the state is privately owned, and increasing this percentage creates future opportunities for Alaskans and local governments that seek tax bases. House Bill 183 will create a process that allows for these opportunities to happen.

HB 183 requires the Department of Natural Resources to create land auctions with at least 200,000 acres of State land in regions where public services exist or can be extended with reasonable economy or where development of a viable economic base is viable. Any adult that is eligible for a Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) can apply for a land lottery for parcels approximately 10 acres. The winner of the lottery can pay for the parcel with their current and future PFD's until the fair market value is paid off.

HB 183 creates a fair and equitable method where the State can offer quality land to Alaskans in exchange for their PFD. This bill will allow the State to receive an additional source of revenue and allow individual Alaskans to obtain quality land to invest in and increase economic activity throughout the State.

Though HB 183 will not solve Alaska's budget problems, it can be one small step to help with the multi-billion dollar deficit.