

Public Safety Employees Association, Inc.
“Representing Alaska’s Finest”

**Public Safety Employees Association – Position Paper in
Support
HB 10 – Optional Exemption from Municipal Property Taxes**

PSEA supports Section 6 of HB 10 that gives municipalities by ordinance an option to offer a property tax exemption as one means to attract law enforcement officers to reside in areas of a community where there is a higher occurrence of crime than is found in the municipality as a whole.

The municipality must by ordinance adopt the tax exemption and define law enforcement officer. If the municipality adopts an ordinance, it exempts from taxation an amount not to exceed \$150,000 of assessed value of real property for an officer who owns and occupies a primary permanent residence in a designated area.

HB 10 gives communities a tool for use in attracting law enforcement officers to bring their families to live in areas of a community where crime is more prevalent.

The bill offers a property tax incentive for an officer and his or her family to consider living in a designated area where there is a higher incident of crime. Providing an incentive in the form of tax relief may help attract families of peace officers to neighborhoods where crime is an issue. If the quid pro quo is a neighborhood that is safer, the incentive will have been worth the investment.

2/26/09



Alaska

February 20, 2009

Honorable Max Gruenberg
Alaska House of Representative
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 10, Section 3

Dear Representative Gruenberg:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to express our opposition to Section 3 of House Bill 10. Over 60% of the NFIB/AK membership voted to oppose increases in the residential property tax exemption in the 2009 NFIB Alaska State Ballot. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in the Alaska.

The proposed increase to the residential property tax exemption in Section 3 is one more step toward a "split roll" tax that will shift property taxation onto businesses. As small business owners, we believe that all users of municipal services should share property taxes equally. As fewer individuals are directly impacted by property taxes, tax increases are more likely. For small businesses that will increase operating costs and, particularly in the current economic situation, may reduce the ability of small businesses to increase employment and help our economy grow.

While we appreciate your concern about the impact of local property taxes on residential property, we believe that reducing expenditures is a more appropriate means of reducing those costs, rather than shifting them to others.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denny", is written over the typed name.

Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska Legislative Advocate

Allison Laffen

From: Van Sant, Steve (CED) [steve.vansant@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 10:07 AM
To: Allison Laffen
Subject: RE: HB 10 Municipal Property Tax Exemptions

Allison,

I have discussed this with the AG's office in the past, as well as other municipal attorneys and the conclusion is that once a widow/widower remarries, they are no longer considered a widow/widower and consequently, are no longer eligible for the program. This is consistent with the policy that we currently use in the program for seniors.

I hope this helps, but if you have any more questions, please feel free to contact me.

Steve

Steve Van Sant
State Assessor
(907) 269-4605

From: Allison Laffen [mailto:Allison_Laffen@legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Sun 2/22/2009 12:02 PM
To: Van Sant, Steve (CED)
Subject: HB 10 Municipal Property Tax Exemptions

Mr. VanSant:

We have had a question arise on HB 10 and Rep. Gruenberg thought you may be able to assist us in finding the answer. I've attached a copy of the bill for your review. Section 2 of the bill amends AS 29.45.030(e) by eliminating the requirement that a widow or widower of a disabled veteran who had qualified for an exemption for taxes on the residence be at least 60 years old in order to also qualify for the exemption. The question posed to us: Is a widow or widower who has qualified or would qualify under this section who subsequently gets remarried still considered a widow/er for purposes of the exemption?

HB 10 is scheduled to be heard in House Community & Regional Affairs on Thursday, February 26 at 8:00am. Would you or someone from your staff be available via teleconference to answer questions that may arise during that time?

Thank you for your time.

Allison Laffen
Legislative Aide
Rep. Max Gruenberg - D20
(907) 465-2840

2/23/2009