



Sponsor Statement

House Bill 240 Native Village Corporation Reinstatement

Legislation nearly identical to HB 240 has been introduced and passed by the Legislature several times in recent decades. Unfortunately, it has not been rare for small ANCSA village corporations to miss filing biennial reports to the state and subsequently become involuntarily dissolved. Contributing factors have included inexperience and lack of professional guidance for corporate officers, as well as the remoteness of some of these communities and the vagaries of rural mail, especially when a corporation official relocates.

Whatever the reason for an involuntary dissolution, it is in the interest of the state to provide an opportunity for a village corporation to be reinstated. It is a matter of economic development.

Allowing reinstatement will enable dissolved Native village corporations to resume business development with all the advantages that come with their status under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

In the case of Nagamut Ltd., which would be eligible under this legislation, you have a corporation reinvigorated by a new generation of shareholders and corporate officers eager to create new commerce and contribute to Alaska's economy.

HB 240 comes at no cost to the state. In fact, the Department of Commerce will see a slight increase in revenue, since any reinstated village corporation will be required to pay fees and associated penalties for late filing of annual reports.