

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SESSION

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## SENATOR BERT K. STEDMAN

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### Sponsor Statement

#### **SB 28 - Municipal Land Selections for the Petersburg Borough**

Senate Bill 28 will set the total general land entitlement for the Petersburg Borough (Borough) at 14,666 acres. This is an increase of 12,770 acres from its current level of entitlement, and would bring the Borough's land entitlement to a level similar to the other organized boroughs in the state. SB 28 will address the long-term economic sustainability of a recently formed borough.

When the Borough formed in 2013, it received a general land grant entitlement from the state of 1,896 acres. Of the 1,896 acres, 457.47 acres had already been given to the City of Petersburg. A substantial part of the 457.47 acres is restricted to public, charitable, or recreational use.

After deducting the 457.47 acres that went to the City, the Borough's land entitlement is 1,438.53 acres which is an area roughly 1/3<sup>rd</sup> the size of the Anchorage International Airport. 1,438.53 acres simply does not provide enough land to support economic development such as rock and sand material sites for roads, airports, waterfront land for tourism development, or residential homes.

The Borough would select the additional 12,770 acres from seven different areas around the Borough. All selections would be made from vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved state lands. No selections would interfere with existing State, University, or Alaska Mental Health Trust lands, including the Southeast State Forest, or private ownership.

The Petersburg Borough recognizes we are in difficult budget times. An increased land base is critical for the Petersburg Borough to become more self-sufficient.

#### **District R**

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