

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

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Pelican · Petersburg · Point Baker · Port Alexander · Port Protection · Sitka · Tenakee Springs · Thorne Bay · Whale Pass

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Committees:
State Affairs, Chair
Fisheries
Judiciary



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State Capitol, Room 411
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Sitka, Alaska 99835 (May – Dec.)
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HB 85 Sponsor Statement — Petersburg Lands Bill

HB 85 would allow the Petersburg Borough to select 14,666 acres of land as part of their land entitlement for incorporating into a borough.

The City of Petersburg dissolved in 2013 to become the Petersburg Borough. Under AS 29.65.050, the Borough is entitled to claim a land grant from the state: a percentage of the vacant, unappropriated, unreserved land (as calculated by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources), minus land which belonged to the old city and State land conveyed to the University of Alaska, Alaska Mental Health Trust, Southeast State Forest, and private ownership.

This leaves Petersburg with only 1,438.53 acres, or .08% of their actual Borough land area, which is well below the average of other municipalities and is insufficient to meet the borough's development, economic, cultural, and resource needs.

Boroughs in Alaska typically request additional land from the legislature by amending AS 29.65.010 on a case by case basis, providing a specific date and amount of land for a newly incorporated municipality. Fourteen such land grants have been given to boroughs across the state since 1990.

Petersburg calculated the average amount of land granted through legislation to new boroughs in proportion to their size: on average, they've received .79% of their total land base from the state. This bill would give Petersburg a reasonable and proportionate amount based on their size: 14,666 acres.