

**Senator
Robert Yundt**

Senate District N

sen.robert.yundt@akleg.gov



Session
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Tel: 907 465-3878
Toll Free: 800-862-3878

Interim
600 E Railroad Ave. Suite 1
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-4866

**Sponsor Statement
SB 153**

SB 153 would exempt municipal service area boards from the requirements of Alaska's Open Meetings Act. Across Alaska, municipalities often establish service areas to provide localized services such as road maintenance, fire protection, or parks. These service areas are typically overseen by small volunteer advisory boards made up of residents who provide recommendations to the governing assembly or council.

These boards are not legislative bodies and do not exercise final decision-making authority. Instead, they serve in an advisory capacity to the municipality.

Despite their limited role, service area boards are often treated as though they are subject to the full requirements of the Open Meetings Act. This can create unnecessary administrative burdens for small volunteer boards, particularly in rural communities where staffing and resources are limited.

SB 153 recognizes the advisory nature of municipal service area boards and removes them from the Open Meetings Act requirements. The legislation does not reduce transparency in municipal decision-making. Final decisions about service area budgets, policies, and authorities remain with the municipal assembly or council, which will continue to meet in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

By right sizing these requirements, the bill supports volunteer participation, reduces administrative burdens on municipalities, and ensures that local advisory boards can focus on serving their communities.