

# ALASKA STATE HOUSE



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## REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CRONK

### Sponsor Statement HB 151

The need for public process and involvement in creating government is based on the language of **Article I, Section 2 of the Alaska Constitution**, ***"All political power is inherent in the people. All government originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the people as a whole."***

Unfortunately, and hopefully through simply oversight, the public process and the "Will of the people" failed to be included in a 2005 piece of legislation that became codified in 2006. ( AS 29.05.115.)

**HB 151** simply corrects the deficiency by requiring that a full public process be carried out before the legislature receives a proposal from the Local Boundary Commission under Title X, Section 12 of the Constitution.

As laid out in **Article I, Section 12** if the legislature receives a proposal by the Local Boundary Commission, there are only **two options**. **First, the legislature may reject the proposal with a majority in the House and the Senate.**

**Second, the legislature can choose to take no action, in which case the proposal remains law.**

Under this method of forming government the LBC without any legislative public hearings, establish a new Borough unless rejected by the legislature.

It is extremely important under present law that the legislature know the "Will of the people" contained in any proposal submitted.

Presently the LBC is required to hold two public hearings in the area being proposed and under no obligation to follow the opinions of those giving testimony at the hearings.

**HB 151** ensures the legislature will know the level of public support before making any decision concerning a proposed Borough.