

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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"STRONG VALUES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES"

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### House Bill 183 Application of the Village Safe Water Act

House Bill 183 amends the definition of "village" under the Village Safe Water Act. Currently an unincorporated community, a second class city, or a first class city with not more than 600 residents is eligible to receive a grant under the Village Safe Water Program. House Bill 183 amends this definition to include a *home rule city* with less than 600 residents.

A home rule city has the same government powers as a first class city. The difference rests in how the two cities are organized. A first class city is established under AS 29.35.250-260 while a home rule city adopts a charter as the framework for the city.

Four years ago the City of Nenana was awarded a Village Safe Water grant to upgrade an aging water and sewer system. The city worked diligently with state officials for several years to plan and finalize the project. Unfortunately, right before construction was to begin, the Department of Environmental Conservation notified Nenana that the city was not eligible to receive a Village Safe Water grant; the city was not a first class city, but a home rule city.

The change in HB 183 allows the City of Nenana to proceed with the needed upgrade to its water and sewer system using Village Safe Water funds. Passage of HB 183 this year ensures that a construction season is not lost.

Thank you for your support.

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Coldfoot Camp  
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Deltana  
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Eagle  
Eagle Village  
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Fort Greely  
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