

Explanation of Changes

The original intent of this bill was to change the statutory language to add “home rule cities” to the Village Safe Water (VSW) program so the city of Nenana would be eligible for the program. Since introduction there were three changes that occurred to the bill;

- Increasing the maximum population from 600 to 1,000. This recommendation came from the DEC, it was recommended because there are a number of cities that are close to the maximum and a couple that are barely over the limit.
- Adding “home rule municipality” was also a recommendation of DEC and that would enable both the City of Nenana and Yakutat city and Borough to be eligible.
- Changing the definition of village from “unincorporated community” to U.S.C. 1610 or 15 (ANCSA). This was also a recommendation from the DEC, it makes it mandatory for a structured government to be in place, to be eligible for the grant.

These recommendations were added by the DEC/VSW to expand the services they provide.