

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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"STRONG VALUES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES"

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Committee Substitute for House Bill 183 (CRA) Application of the Village Safe Water Act

Alatna
Allakaket
Alcan
Aniak
Anvik
Arctic Village
Beaver
Beluga
Bettles
Birch Creek
Boundary
Central
Chalkyitsik
Chandalar
Chandalar Lake
Chicken
Chitochina
Chitina
Chuathbaluk
Circle
Coldfoot Camp
Copper Center
Crooked Creek
Deltana
Dot Lake
Dry Creek
Eagle
Eagle Village
Evansville
Flat
Fort Greely
Fort Yukon
Fortuna Ledge
Gakona
Galena
Georgetown
Grayling
Gulkana
Healy Lake
Holy Cross
Hughes

Huslia
Kaltag
Kennicott
Kenny Lake
Koyukuk
Lake Minchumina
Lime Village
Livengood
Manley Hot Springs
Marshall
McCarthy
McGrath
Medfra
Mentasta Lake
Minto
Nabesna
Nenana
Nikolai
Northway
Nulato
Ophir
Rampart
Red Devil
Ruby
Russian Mission
Shageluk
Slana
Sleetmute
Stevens Village
Stony River
Takotna
Tanacross
Tanana
Tazlina
Telida
Tetlin
Tok
Tonsina
Tyonek
Venetie
Wiseman

Committee Substitute for House Bill 183 (CRA) 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 VSW Program.

The proposed legislation includes the following changes:

1. Changes the definition of an "unincorporated community" to a community listed in 43 U.S.C. 1610 or 1615 (ANCSA). The intent of this change was to ensure that an unincorporated community had a governing body.
2. Raises the maximum number of residents eligible for funding in a village or first-class city from 600 to 1,000. This change allows municipalities that are facing clean water and sanitation issues to receive a VSW grant despite population growth.
3. Adds home rule municipalities with populations less than 1,000 residents. Under this definition, the City of Nenana and the City and Borough of Yakutat are eligible to apply for VSW funding.

Four years ago the City of Nenana was awarded a VSW grant to upgrade an aging water and sewer system. Unfortunately, right before construction was to begin, city officials learned that Nenana was not eligible because it was a Home Rule City. CSHB 183 (CRA) allows the city to proceed with the needed improvements to its water and sewer system using a Village Safe Water grant.

Thank you for your support.