

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON  
HOUSE DISTRICT 2

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### House Bill 273

**“An Act relating to general grant land entitlements for the city and Borough of Wrangell; and providing for an effective date.”**

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HB 273 is introduced to complete the formation of the Wrangell borough and the land entitlements that the state grants to support local government.

The City and Borough of Wrangell (CBW) was formed in May 2008. Upon formation each borough receives a general land grant entitlement from the state under AS.29.65.010.

CBW's land grant will be 1,952.5 acres according to Department of Natural Resources. Other boroughs received an average of 1.13% of the total land in the borough and Wrangell received 0.12% of the total land available, the smallest of any borough. Were Wrangell to receive 1.13% of the total land area, the amount would be 18,673 acres.

The newly formed City and Borough of Wrangell is comprised of 97.28% of federal lands, 2.48% of State lands (including Alaska Mental Health Trust and University of Alaska lands), but not tidelands or submerged lands); .17% privately owned lands, and .08% of CBW lands.

There are approximately 44,000 acres of State land in the borough, so the increased entitlement would not only provide land for the borough and its residents to accomplish economic development, settlement and open space and other borough needs, but also leave significant state land remaining within the borough.

The additional acreage is critically important to provide for the needs of the Borough and its citizens to accomplish the economic, cultural, habitat, settlement and resource development goals. Our residents have identified, in our Borough comprehensive planning process, areas for future energy and port development to enhance the economic opportunities of the area. In addition, Wrangell residents have identified resource development and settlement expansion goals that cannot be accomplished with 1,952 acres. The Wrangell Borough requires a similar land entitlement as other boroughs in order to provide for the needs of the community and develop its growth potential.