  
**Public Safety Employees Association, Inc.**  
*“Representing Alaska’s Finest”*

**Public Safety Employees Association – Position Paper in  
Support  
HB 10 – Optional Exemption from Municipal Property Taxes**

PSEA supports Section 6 of HB 10 that gives municipalities by ordinance an option to offer a property tax exemption as one means to attract law enforcement officers to reside in areas of a community where there is a higher occurrence of crime than is found in the municipality as a whole.

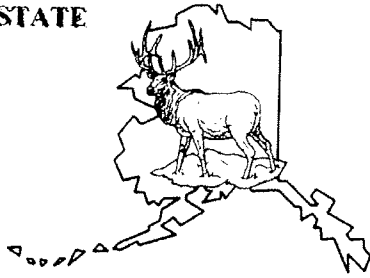
The municipality must by ordinance adopt the tax exemption and define law enforcement officer. If the municipality adopts an ordinance, it exempts from taxation an amount not to exceed \$150,000 of assessed value of real property for an officer who owns and occupies a primary permanent residence in a designated area.

HB 10 gives communities a tool for use in attracting law enforcement officers to bring their families to live in areas of a community where crime is more prevalent.

The bill offers a property tax incentive for an officer and his or her family to consider living in a designated area where there is a higher incident of crime. Providing an incentive in the form of tax relief may help attract families of peace officers to neighborhoods where crime is an issue. If the quid pro quo is a neighborhood that is safer, the incentive will have been worth the investment.

2/26/09

ALASKA  
STATE



**ELKS ASSOCIATION**

2008 ~ 2009 ALASKA STATE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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To: Alaska House of Representatives, Community and Regional Affairs Committee  
Co-Chairs Rep. Bob Herron and Rep. Cathy Munoz 2/25/09

From: Richard "Tiny" Fagg, President  
Alaska State Elks Association

Re: Alaska House of Representatives House Bill 10

Hons. Herron and Munoz,

I am writing to you on behalf of the seventeen Lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in Alaska and the over 7000 members of those Lodges to ask for your support of and to speak on behalf of Alaska House of Representatives House Bill 10. The seventeen Elks Lodges in Alaska serve a vital role in their communities as do many of the other non-profit fraternal organizations. There is only one entity that awards more scholarships for the youth of our country and that is the Federal Government. We hold athletic contests and provide camping experiences as well as essay contests and coloring contests for the younger children all aimed at serving the youth and families of our communities. The Elks provide programs for the children of our town and cities that are all designed to help them to grow into valuable American Citizens. The Elks other main focus is our brave veterans and the distinguished men and women currently serving in our Armed Forces. Between the thousands of man hours given by the volunteers who work at the many Veterans Centers across Alaska each year and the social events we hold at the Lodges specifically for these wonderful men and women the total amount of time and funds contributed is remarkable. Our State Association and the Lodges of Alaska have just this last year launched the Alaska Wounded Veterans Project which is intended to help the soldiers returning from our current conflicts experience a small amount of normalcy by offering them different outdoor recreational activities that only Lodges in Alaska can offer.

All of these activities take place because of our Lodges but in today's economic climate it has become harder and harder to support all of these activities as well as raise the funds for the operating expenses of their facilities. With the passage of House Bill 10 the towns, cities and boroughs that are the homes to Elks Lodges and other fraternal organizations would be given the ability to make these fraternal organizations exempt from the paying of property taxes, which in some areas can be a substantial savings. I hope that you can see the benefit you will be affording our communities by supporting this bill and I thank you for your help with this worthy endeavor. If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

*Richard "Tiny" Fagg*

Alaska State Elks Association President

A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION  
Employers Identification #92-6002001  
[www.alaskastateelks.org](http://www.alaskastateelks.org)