

# REPRESENTATIVE SARA HANNAN


## ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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**DATE:** May 16, 2019

**FROM:** Representative Sara Hannan 

**TO:** Co-Chair Lincoln, Co-Chair Tarr  
Member of the House Resources Committee

**RE:** HB 122 – Funter Bay

On April 15<sup>th</sup> I presented HB 122 to the House Resources Committee. During the presentation, there were questions asked regarding the amount of land that would be transferred from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Division of Mining Land and Water (Funter Bay Marine Park), to the Division of Parks and Recreation. I am providing additional information here for the committee to consider.

1. The bill would transfer 537 acres from one division to another within the DNR. This parcel will remain state land within the department. This is not a land swap. The bill simply changes the status of the parcel to protect the cemetery and surrounding land for generations to come. The department wholly supports HB 122 and has submitted a letter testifying to their support.
2. The department suggested to my office that the entire parcel of land be transferred. This would be the most efficient method with no cost and would provide the protections needed for the cemetery and surrounding land.
3. The land has minimal or low value in terms of resource, but high value in terms of public lands. Funter Bay is a remote, well known southeast location. It is used by kayakers and boaters for camping, fishing and for protection from the weather. This transfer will not only provide protections for the cemetery and a buffer zone, but also will allow adequate public land for the public in perpetuity.
4. Yes, the land parcel could be reduced in size. The actual size of the cemetery itself is about one acre. However, to do so will result in delay as new survey would be needed, and the parcel would need to be divided and reconfigured. This could result in additional cost for the survey and for staff time to determine the size and configuration of new lot without any benefit.

The overall objective of the bill is to protect the cemetery for generations to come. My intention was not to draft a bill that transfers more land than is necessary. However, with the recommendation from DNR and when considering other options available, it was apparent that transferring this parcel as a single unit was the best way to meet the objective of the bill.