

**From:** [Alisha](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony against HB 350  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 7:49:39 AM

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Hello, my name is Alisha Asplund, I live in D8; I am representing myself today and wish to testify against HB 350.

I feel that the public testimony is being rushed. The only information on this bill available to me is the title and the full text of the bill. There is no sponsor statement or examination about the reason this bill is being put forward or that information is not available to the public on website.

I am against HB350 because it seems like legislators are once again trying to give themselves the power to turn local debt Article IX section 9 into state debt Article IX section 8

#### **Section 9. Local Debts**

**No debt shall be contracted by any political subdivision of the State, unless authorized for capital improvements by its governing body and ratified by a majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting on the question.**

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#### **Section 8. State Debt**

**No state debt shall be contracted unless authorized by law for capital improvements or unless authorized by law for housing loans for veterans, and ratified by a majority of the qualified voters of the State who vote on the question. The State may, as provided by law and without ratification, contract debt for the purpose of repelling invasion, suppressing insurrection, defending the State in war, meeting natural disasters, or redeeming indebtedness outstanding at the time this constitution becomes effective.**

HB 350 clearly states “indebtedness authorized by the qualified voters of the municipality” see Lines 7-8 of the bill.

**3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

**4 \* Section 1. AS 14.11.014(d) is amended to read:**

**5 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the committee may not**  
**6 recommend for approval an application for bond debt reimbursement made by a**  
**7 municipality for school construction or major maintenance for indebtedness authorized**  
**8 by the qualified voters of the municipality on or after January 1, 2015, but before**  
**9 July 1, 2022 [2025].**

The only voters who were allowed to vote on this debt were “qualified voters of the municipality”, therefore it would be local debt according to the description given by the constitution.

This debt would not fit in the category of State Debt as given by the constitution, because the

constitution requirement for State Debt is that it be “ratified by the majority of the qualified voters of the State who vote on the question”.

I do not see where in the constitution it is says- legislators have the power to change local debt into state debt. Where does it say it is ok for legislators to overriding the power that the constitution gave the people of Alaska to not allow legislators to obtain debt without the question being put before all “qualified voters of the State” to be voted on. Not just put before a selected few Alaskan votes.

Legislators seem to be saying that they believe consent given by only of the qualified voters of a single municipality is equivalent to the consent given by all the qualified voters of the State, and therefore seem to be saying they treat local debt just like state debt whenever they wish and just disregard the constitution which clearly states that they are not the same and have different requirements for ratification. I do not see school bond debt in the list of debts the constitution allows the state to acquire without ratification.

HB 350 seems to be the legislature is attempting to take away the constitutional power given to the voters of Alaska to ratify or reject State Debt.

If legislators wish School Bond Debt to be treated as State Debt, they must require that the School Bond Debt to be voted on by the qualified voters of the whole State not only the qualified voters of the municipality. Or they need to ask the people to pass a constitution amendment that adds it to the list of exemption listed that do not need ratification.

They cannot do it indirectly by creating a statute which remove constitutional power that has been giving to the people of Alaska in order to limit state debt and ensure the fiscal integrity of the state’s treasury.

I do not support any attempt to the legislature to evade, ignore, or by pass the constitution to increase their power and reduce the power of the people of Alaska –

## **Section 2. Source of Government**

**All political power is inherent in the people. All government originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the people as a whole.**

I cannot support legislators who say that is best for Alaska as a whole, for a single municipality to have the power to ratify State Debt. This is not a wise precedent to set and would not be a wise precedent to reinforce and make an accepted legislative procedure.

Thank you for your time,  
Alisha Asplund District D8  
Wasilla, AK 99623

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