

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## Senator Click Bishop

### Senate Bill 79 Sponsor Statement Reclassification of First-Class Cities

Senate Bill 79 will give first-class cities, that have fallen below the required 400 resident standard for becoming and maintaining a first-class city, a way to reclassify themselves as a second-class city.

The 2022 annual report by the Local Boundary Commission to the legislature states that “A community must have a population of more than 400 to incorporate as a first-class city” and says, “there is no mechanism that automatically reclassifies a community if the population drops below that threshold.”

Tanana, for example, once had the tax base and was able to run as a first-class city; however, the population has dropped significantly to where the community can no longer do so. A member of the Tanana City Council contacted the Local Boundary Commission in February 2022 to ask how to reclassify themselves from a first-class city to a second-class one. Senate Bill 79 will help them do it.