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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE DISTRICT 30



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HB 114\Ver.B

Sponsor Statement

“An Act relating to the definition of ‘village’ in the Village Safe Water Act.”

HB114 amends the definition of “village” outlined in AS §46.07.080 (2) by expanding the definition of “community” and increase population limits as contained in sub-section (E).

Specifically, HB114 will amend A.S. §46.07.080(2)(E) to now include “... or a census designated place...” and will increase the population limit from 1,000 to 1,500 for those eligible to receive a grant through the Village Safe Water Program (VSW); the program’s goal is to improve public health and compliance with environmental laws by upgrading the level of sanitation facilities in rural Alaskan communities through financial and technical assistance.

Definitions and population limits have not been updated since 2011 and “census designated places” were not included. The 2020 Census indicates that there are 207 Census Designated Places (CDPs) in Alaska. CDPs are statistical geographic entities that represent a closely settled, unincorporated community that is locally recognized and identified by name. They are similar to Census Designated Areas (CDAs), which are also used by the Census Bureau to provide data and statistics on unincorporated areas. The Census Bureau uses CDPs to provide data on a wide range of demographic, social and economic characteristics of these areas. This information is used for a variety of purposes, including planning, research, and resource allocation. These changes will add six communities across Alaska: Sutton-Alpine, Buffalo Soapstone, Talkeetna, Funny River, Tok and Prudhoe Bay to the Village Safe Water Program eligibility list.

Passage of House Bill 114 will provide timely updates to statutory definitions and population sizes, allowing grant funding through the Village Safe Water Program to communities or census designated places in Alaska that are in dire need of basic services including sustainable sanitation facilities.

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