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HB 133

“Exempting Municipal Service Area Boards to the Open Meeting Act”

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 133 would give specific exemptions to local municipalities on the Open Meetings Act.

Currently, the Open Meetings Act (OMA) doesn't allow for Board Supervisors on the Road, Safety and Assessment (RSA) board to ride in the same vehicle, because of the quorum statute in OMA. For example, in the Mat-Su Borough, RSA is an advisory only position appointed by the Mayor. These positions are strictly voluntary; with no power to contract or spend any of the Borough's money.

Not only would this change incentivize local board members; which has been a problem filling, but in the Mat-Su Valley, it is critical to get all the Supervisors together and brainstorm on how best to solve Borough issues, without the cloud of the OMA.

Currently, in practice, if a board member found out something wrong with a road, he or she does not have the ability to call others on the board to come look at said problem and discuss solutions on solving the issue, because of the Open Meetings Act. This is a big problem for local municipalities with an easy solution set forth in this bill.

Please join us in supporting HB 133.