

**HOUSE BILL NO. 480**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE KOHRING**

**Introduced: 2/16/04**

**Referred: House Special Committee on Education, Health, Education and Social Services, Community and Regional Affairs**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to organization of the public school system; and providing for an**  
2 **effective date."**

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

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 14.08.011(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) It is the purpose of this chapter to provide for public education in **regional**  
6 **educational attendance areas** [THE UNORGANIZED BOROUGH] and the military  
7 reservations in the state.

8 **\* Sec. 2.** AS 14.08.031(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) The Department of Community and Economic Development in  
10 consultation with the Department of Education and Early Development and local  
11 communities shall **establish and determine the boundaries of regional educational**  
12 **attendance areas. A regional educational attendance area must have 1,000 or**  
13 **more students in average daily membership** [DIVIDE THE UNORGANIZED  
14 BOROUGH INTO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AREAS USING THE

1 BOUNDARIES OR SUB-BOUNDARIES OF THE REGIONAL CORPORATIONS  
 2 ESTABLISHED UNDER THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT,  
 3 UNLESS BY REFERENDUM A COMMUNITY VOTES TO MERGE WITH  
 4 ANOTHER COMMUNITY CONTIGUOUS TO IT BUT WITHIN THE  
 5 BOUNDARIES OR SUB-BOUNDARIES OF ANOTHER REGIONAL  
 6 CORPORATION].

7 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.08.031(b) is amended to read:

8 (b) [AN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AREA ESTABLISHED IN THE  
 9 UNORGANIZED BOROUGH UNDER (a) OF THIS SECTION CONSTITUTES A  
 10 REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE AREA.] As far as practicable, a  
 11 [EACH] regional educational attendance area shall contain an integrated socio-  
 12 economic, linguistically, and culturally homogeneous area. In the formation of the  
 13 regional educational attendance areas, consideration shall be given to how the  
 14 transportation and communication network will [TO] facilitate the administration of  
 15 education [AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COMMUNITIES THAT  
 16 COMPRISE THE AREA]. Whenever possible, municipalities, other governmental or  
 17 regional corporate entities, drainage basins, and other identifiable geographic features  
 18 shall be used in describing the boundaries of the regional educational [SCHOOL]  
 19 attendance areas.

20 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.08.071(a) is amended to read:

21 (a) In each regional educational attendance area [IN THE UNORGANIZED  
 22 BOROUGH], the lieutenant governor, within not less than 60 [,] nor more than 90  
 23 days after the establishment of the regional educational attendance area, shall provide  
 24 for the election of a regional school board.

25 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 14.12.010 is repealed and reenacted to read:

26 **Sec. 14.12.010. Public school districts.** The public school system consists of  
 27 the following districts:

- 28 (1) an organized borough;  
 29 (2) a home rule or first class city in the unorganized borough with  
 30 1,000 or more students in average daily membership;  
 31 (3) a regional educational attendance area with 1,000 or more students

1 in average daily membership.

2 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 29.35.260(b) is amended to read:

3 (b) A home rule or first class city outside a borough is a city school district **if**  
 4 **the home rule or first class city qualifies under AS 14.12.010. A city school**  
 5 **district** [AND] shall establish, operate, and maintain a system of public schools as  
 6 provided by AS 29.35.160 for boroughs. A second class city outside a borough is not  
 7 a school district and may not establish a system of public schools.

8 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 14.12.025 and 14.12.110 are repealed.

9 \* **Sec. 8.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
 10 read:

11 TRANSITION. (a) Existing home rule or first class city school districts and regional  
 12 educational attendance areas are not affected by this Act until the Department of Community  
 13 and Economic Development, in consultation with the Department of Education and Early  
 14 Development and the affected communities, determines that, as a result of the amendment of  
 15 AS 14.08.031(a) by sec. 2 of this Act and AS 14.12.010 by sec. 5 of this Act, new districts or  
 16 regional educational attendance areas are required to be established.

17 (b) A term of a member of a school board of a city school district or regional  
 18 educational attendance area serving on the effective date of this Act is not affected by this Act  
 19 until a new regional school board is established under AS 14.08.041.

20 \* **Sec. 9.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2004.