

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/5/05

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the Advisory Commission on Local Government.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** the Constitution of the State of Alaska provides that the Alaska State
4 Legislature serves as the assembly for the unorganized borough; and

5 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature exercises that responsibility to support the
6 future economic stability of Alaska; and

7 **WHEREAS** the rural economy of the state is a significant contributor to urban
8 economics; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in the past few years, many local communities in Alaska have either shut
10 down, entered deeply into debt, or ceased providing basic local services as a result of lower
11 local revenue; and

12 **WHEREAS** crafting legislative solutions that will efficaciously address both short-
13 term and long-term sustainability issues will be dependent upon conducting an appropriate
14 needs assessment to guide these efforts;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that, pursuant to the authority granted under art. II, sec. 11,
16 Constitution of the State of Alaska to establish interim committees, the Advisory Commission

1 on Local Government is established; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Advisory Commission on Local Government shall
3 consist of nine members, three senators appointed by the president of the senate, three
4 representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and three public
5 members appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
6 representatives; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the president of the senate and the speaker of the house
8 of representatives shall jointly appoint the chair and vice-chair of the commission; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the public members may not receive compensation, per
10 diem, or reimbursement for travel or other expenses incurred in serving on the Advisory
11 Commission on Local Government; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House and Senate Community and Regional
13 Affairs Committees shall assign committee staff to provide support services for the
14 commission; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the Advisory Commission on Local
16 Government include

17 (1) studying the specific reasons for the hardships that communities in Alaska
18 have experienced and developing proposals to continue the evolution of local government;

19 (2) defining the role of state government in the financing of local public
20 services;

21 (3) recommending specific means by which local governments, when desired,
22 can move towards borough formation;

23 (4) reviewing findings of previous local government studies and incorporating
24 useful information in its report; and

25 (5) exploring the potential to utilize taxation of natural resource extraction
26 activities in the unorganized borough; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Advisory Commission on Local Government shall
28 develop recommendations for Alaska's cities within the unorganized borough as a critical
29 element of the state's economic future; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Advisory Commission on Local Government shall
31 deliver a report of its finding to the legislature by January 15, 2006, together with appropriate

1 legislative proposals for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the Twenty-
2 Fourth Alaska Legislature; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Advisory Commission on Local Government may
4 meet during and between legislative sessions and that the commission is terminated on
5 February 1, 2006.