

HOUSE BILL NO. 106

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOULE

Introduced: 2/2/09

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, State Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to village public safety officers and regional public safety officers."**

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

3 *** Section 1.** AS 18.65.670(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) There is created in the Department of Public Safety a village public safety
5 officer program to assist local governments and villages through nonprofit regional
6 corporations **and boroughs** to appoint, train, supervise, and retain persons to serve as
7 village public safety officers to administer functions relative to

8 (1) the protection of life and property in rural areas of the state; and

9 (2) providing probation and parole supervision to persons under
10 supervision by communicating with and monitoring the activities and progress of these
11 persons at the direction of probation and parole officers.

12 *** Sec. 2.** AS 18.65.670(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) With funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner of public
14 safety shall provide grants to nonprofit regional corporations **or boroughs** for village
15 public safety officers **in rural areas of the state and boroughs with populations of**

1 **less than 10,000.** The commissioner of public safety shall coordinate with the
 2 commissioner of corrections when providing grants under this section, and the
 3 commissioners shall jointly execute an agreement with the nonprofit regional
 4 corporations **or boroughs. For areas within a borough that exercises areawide law**
 5 **enforcement powers, the commissioner may provide grants under this section**
 6 **only to the borough.**

7 * **Sec. 3.** AS 18.65.670(c) is amended to read:

8 (c) The commissioner of public safety may adopt regulations related to village
 9 public safety officers, including minimum standards and training, criteria for
 10 community, **borough,** or corporation participation, and the interaction between the
 11 Department of Public Safety and village public safety officers. The commissioner of
 12 corrections may adopt regulations related to the functions of village public safety
 13 officers providing probation and parole supervision.

14 * **Sec. 4.** AS 18.65.680 is amended to read:

15 **Sec. 18.65.680. Regional public safety officers.** The commissioner of public
 16 safety may appoint regional public safety officers to

17 (1) provide an expanded public safety and law enforcement presence in

18 **(A)** rural areas of the state;

19 **(B) boroughs that do not exercise areawide law**
 20 **enforcement powers and have populations of less than 10,000;**

21 (2) provide oversight and training for the village public safety officer
 22 program;

23 (3) administer functions relating to

24 (A) protecting life and property in the rural areas of the state;

25 (B) conducting investigations;

26 (C) conducting search and rescue missions;

27 (D) conducting local training programs in drug and alcohol
 28 awareness and prevention, water safety, and gun safety;

29 (4) perform other duties relating to public safety as directed by the
 30 commissioner.

31 * **Sec. 5.** AS 18.65.680 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

1 (b) The commissioner of public safety may provide grants to boroughs that
2 exercise areawide law enforcement powers and have populations of less than 10,000 to
3 allow the boroughs, in consultation with the commissioner of public safety, to appoint
4 regional public safety officers to perform the functions listed in (a) of this section.

5 * **Sec. 6.** AS 18.65 is amended by adding a new section to article 9 to read:

6 **Sec. 18.65.690. Borough law enforcement.** For purposes of AS 18.65.670 and
7 18.65.680, a borough exercises areawide law enforcement powers even if a city within
8 the borough exercises those powers under AS 29.35.250(b).