

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

March 20, 2014

3:36 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Peter Micciche, Chair
Senator Cathy Giessel, Vice Chair
Senator Dennis Egan
Senator Click Bishop

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Lyman Hoffman

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 213

"An Act relating to the appointment of municipal election boards."

- MOVED SB 213 OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 213

SHORT TITLE: MUNICIPAL ELECTION BOARDS

SPONSOR(S): COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

03/17/14	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/17/14	(S)	CRA
03/20/14	(S)	CRA AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

WITNESS REGISTER

LARRY SEMMENS, Staff
Senator Micciche
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided an overview of SB 213.

COLETTE THOMPSON, Borough Attorney

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Soldotna, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Supports SB 213.

MICHELE TURNER, Borough Clerk Assistant
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Soldotna, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Supports SB 213.

HOLLY MONTAGUE, Deputy Borough Attorney
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Soldotna, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Supports SB 213.

KATHIE WASSERMAN, Executive Director
Alaska Municipal League
Juneau, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Supports SB 123.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:36:50 PM](#)

CHAIR PETER MICCICHE called the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Egan, Bishop, Giessel, and Chair Micciche.

SB 213-MUNICIPAL ELECTION BOARDS

[3:37:37 PM](#)

CHAIR MICCICHE announced the consideration of SB 213, sponsored by the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee.

[3:38:03 PM](#)

LARRY SEMMENS, Staff, Senator Micciche, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, read a bill overview as follows:

There is growing interest by some municipal entities to conduct elections by mail and other methods. Current statutes require municipalities to appoint an election board for each precinct regardless of whether the election board is needed. When using other methods than in-person voting, such as when ballots may be submitted by mail or electronic transmission and election board is not needed at each precinct. Elections which do not involve in-person voting do not

need election boards as there are no polling places except for an absentee precinct. The requirement that an election board be appointed for each precinct is costly and not necessary. This bill clarifies that election boards are only required for elections and precincts in which voters cast in-person ballots.

MR. SEMMENS called attention to a resolution in support from the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks.

[3:39:47 PM](#)

CHAIR MICCICHE opened public testimony.

[3:40:11 PM](#)

COLETTE THOMPSON, Borough Attorney, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Soldotna, Alaska, said she supports SB 213.

MICHELE TURNER, Borough Clerk Assistant, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Soldotna, Alaska, said she supports SB 213.

HOLLY MONTAGUE, Deputy Borough Attorney, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Soldotna, Alaska, said she supports SB 213.

[3:41:13 PM](#)

KATHIE WASSERMAN, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League (AML), Juneau, Alaska, announced that AML is in support of SB 213. She pointed out Senator Egan's and Chair Micciche's experience as locally elected municipal officials. She explained that the two senators can relate to the fact that when clerks have a stand on something, it is usually based on good knowledge. She said SB 213 will fix something and provide assistance for municipal clerks to make their jobs easier.

CHAIR MICCICHE thanked Ms. Johni Blankenship from the Kenai Peninsula Borough for bring the bill forward.

[3:42:48 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL moved SB 213, labeled 28-LS1558\U from committee with individual recommendations and attached zero fiscal note. There being no objection, the motion carried.

[3:43:02 PM](#)

CHAIR MICCICHE announced that without objection, SB 213 moved from committee.

[3:43:10 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Micciche adjourned the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee meeting at 3:43 p.m.