

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

February 22, 2024

8:03 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative CJ McCormick, Chair
Representative Kevin McCabe, Vice Chair
Representative Thomas Baker
Representative Justin Ruffridge
Representative Rebecca Himschoot
Representative Donna Mears

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Tom McKay

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 279

"An Act relating to the Local Boundary Commission; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSHB 279 (CRA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 279

SHORT TITLE: LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) CRONK

01/18/24	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/18/24	(H)	CRA
01/30/24	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
01/30/24	(H)	Heard & Held
01/30/24	(H)	MINUTE (CRA)
02/13/24	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
02/13/24	(H)	Heard & Held
02/13/24	(H)	MINUTE (CRA)
02/20/24	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
02/20/24	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
02/22/24	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

DAVE STANCLIFF, Staff

Representative Mike Cronk
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions on Amendment 2 to HB 279, on behalf of Representative Cronk, prime sponsor.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[8:03:15 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK called the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. Representatives Baker, Ruffridge, Himschoot, Mears, and McCormick were present at the call to order. Representative McCabe arrived as the meeting was in progress.

HB 279-LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

[8:04:10 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 279, "An Act relating to the Local Boundary Commission; and providing for an effective date."

[8:04:36 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MEARS moved to adopt Amendment 2 to HB 279, labeled 33-LS1177\A.2, Dunmire, 2/1/24, which read:

Page 2, lines 1 - 20:
Delete all material.

Renumber the following bill section accordingly.

CHAIR MCCORMICK announced that there being no objection, Amendment 1 was adopted.

[8:04:55 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HIMSCHOOT moved to adopt Amendment 3 to HB 279, labeled 33-LS1177\A.3, Dunmire, 2/2/24, which read:

Page 1, lines 12 - 14:
Delete "The governor shall designate one member
as [STATE AT LARGE. THE MEMBER APPOINTED FROM THE
STATE AT LARGE IS] the chair of the commission."

Insert "The commission shall select a chair from among its members [STATE AT LARGE. THE MEMBER APPOINTED FROM THE STATE AT LARGE IS THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION]."

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE objected for the purpose of discussion.

[8:05:23 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HIMSCHOOT explained that Amendment 3 would align the commission with similar regulation-setting boards and commissions that select their own chair based on experience and longevity. She opined that empowering boards and commissions to promote their own self-governance was a good move.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE asked the bill sponsor to weigh in.

[8:06:30 AM](#)

DAVE STANCLIFF, Staff, Representative Mike Cronk, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Cronk, prime sponsor of HB 279, relayed that the sponsor was comfortable with the proposed amendment, as it would eliminate people from thinking of the chair as an extension of the executive branch.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE removed his objection. There being no further objection, Amendment 3 was adopted.

[8:07:37 AM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease.

[8:08:17 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK noted that Amendment 1 would not be offered at this time.

[8:08:47 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE moved to report HB 279, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, CSHB 279(CRA), was reported from the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee.

[8:09:13 AM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease.

8:09:57 AM

CHAIR MCCORMICK gave closing remarks on future business.

8:10:06 AM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:10 a.m.