

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR GILBERT

2 SENATE BILL NO. 15

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act to provide wards for the election  
7 of members of the City Council of cities  
8 of the first class."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 Section 1. ELECTION WARDS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

11 After the incorporation of a city of the first class and after  
12 the election of the first council, the members of the said council  
13 shall thereafter be elected from election wards within the bound-  
14 aries of the city, such wards to be equal in number with the  
15 membership of the council. The steps to be taken by a municipality  
16 in establishing the ward system shall be as provided in this Act.

17 Sec. 2. ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING ELECTION WARD SYSTEM.

18 The council shall adopt an ordinance establishing the election  
19 ward system which ordinance shall contain the following provisions  
20 and determinations:

21 (1) - The number of such wards which number shall be equal to  
22 the number of members of the council.

23 (2) - The boundaries of such wards.

24 In determining such boundaries the council shall, as far as  
25 possible, follow the boundaries of election precincts already  
26 established in the city, if such precincts have been established,  
27 and such wards shall contain, as far as possible, equal voting  
28 populations.

29 (3) - Terms for the first council members to be elected from

1 the respective wards.

2 (4) - Residence requirements of candidates for ward elections  
3 No one shall be permitted to seek election as a member of the  
4 city council unless he be a resident of the ward to be represented  
5 on the council. The length of the residence required for candidacy  
6 purposes shall be determined by the council and expressed in the  
7 ordinance. The candidates in a municipal election shall run from  
8 the respective wards in which they are resident but the qualified  
9 voters shall be entitled to vote upon the candidacy of all those  
10 running and such voters shall not have their votes restricted to  
11 only those candidates running from the wards in which the voters  
12 themselves are resident; provided, that, the ward candidates shall  
13 run only against other candidates in their own wards and not at  
14 large against all candidates from all wards.

15 Sec. 3. AFFECT ON PRESENT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS. All city  
16 councils within the purview of the provisions herein shall adopt  
17 the ordinance as provided in Section 2 hereof within 60 days from  
18 the effective date of this Act; provided, that the members of the  
19 city councils incumbent at the said effective date shall not be  
20 deprived of completing their present term of office by virtue of  
21 the passage of this Act. The election ward system herein establi-  
22 shed shall operate prospectively and go into effect only at the  
23 next regular municipal elections and then in piecemeal fashion if  
24 staggered terms are in use for the terms of the city council mem-  
25 bers affected hereby. After the ordinance establishing the  
26 election ward system has been adopted, no person may run for  
27 election or seek re-election at the next municipal election from  
28 a ward in which a member of the City Council whose term has not  
29 expired is a resident.