

Introduced: 2/19/71  
Referred: Local Government  
and Finance

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE  
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. ~~161~~

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act providing for the establishment of regional  
7 service areas in the unorganized borough; and pro-  
8 viding for an effective date."

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

10 \* Section 1. AS 07 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

11 CHAPTER 07. REGIONAL SERVICE AREAS IN THE  
12 UNORGANIZED BOROUGH.

13 Sec. 07.07.010. PURPOSE. (a) This chapter provides for regional  
14 service areas in the unorganized borough and prescribes the structure  
15 and describes the functions of regional service areas. Its basic  
16 purpose is to stimulate the economic and social development of the  
17 unorganized borough and the achievement of satisfactory levels of  
18 living for the residents of the unorganized borough. Its specific  
19 purposes are to promote

20 (1) strengthening of regional capabilities for planning and  
21 coordinating federal, state, and other assistance related to economic  
22 and social development, so that this assistance, through the efforts  
23 of local officials, organizations, and interested and affected  
24 citizens, can be made more responsive to local needs and conditions;

25 (2) better organization of a range of services related to  
26 the needs of the unorganized borough;

27 (3) greater use, subject to adequate evaluation, of new  
28 types of services and innovative approaches in attacking the problems  
29 of economic and social development;

1 (4) the development and implementation of all programs and  
2 projects designed to serve the residents of the unorganized borough  
3 with the maximum feasible participation of residents of the areas  
4 served.

5 (b) It is further declared to be the purpose of this chapter to  
6 provide for measures to enable the residents of the unorganized  
7 borough to remain in such areas. It is not the purpose of this chapter  
8 to encourage the residents of the unorganized borough to migrate to  
9 urban areas, inasmuch as it is the finding of the legislature that  
10 such migration is often not in the best interests of the residents of  
11 the unorganized borough.

12 Sec. 07.07.020. REGIONAL SERVICE AREAS. The director of the  
13 Local Affairs Agency is authorized to establish, alter or abolish  
14 regional service areas in the unorganized borough. The standards  
15 shall include population, geography, economy, transportation, and  
16 other factors determined by the director of the Local Affairs Agency.  
17 Each regional service area shall embrace an area and population with  
18 common interests to the maximum degree possible.

19 Sec. 07.07.030. REGIONAL SERVICE AREA COMMISSIONS. Each  
20 regional service area shall have a commission which shall be so con-  
21 stituted that each city or village incorporated under state or federal  
22 law within the regional service area may have one member on the  
23 commission designated by the city or village. The remainder of the  
24 members shall be representative of other major groups or interests  
25 in the regional service area as designated by the director of the Local  
26 Affairs Agency. Each member of the commission shall reside in the  
27 regional service area he serves.

28 Sec. 07.07.040. ELECTED COMMISSIONS. (a) The qualified voters  
29 of a regional service area established under this chapter may elect

1 the regional service area commission if

2 (1) the regional service area has a resident population  
3 including at least 50 qualified voters; and

4 (2) the director of the Local Affairs Agency finds an  
5 elected commission to be in the best interests of the residents of  
6 the service area; or

7 (3) at least five per cent of the qualified voters of the  
8 regional service area sign and submit a petition to the director of  
9 the Local Affairs Agency requesting a referendum on the question of  
10 whether there shall be an elected regional service commission and the  
11 majority of the qualified voters in the regional service area favor  
12 an elected commission by such referendum.

13 (b) The director of the Local Affairs Agency shall conduct the  
14 referendum authorized by (a)(3) of this section within 90 days of the  
15 receipt of a petition submitted pursuant to (a)(3) of this section.

16 Sec. 07.07.050 FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSIONS. In carrying out the  
17 purposes of this chapter, each commission may with respect to its  
18 regional service area

19 (1) participate in the development, implementation and  
20 evaluation of state programs and projects which relate to the economic  
21 and social development in that service area;

22 (2) encourage state departments and agencies in activities  
23 related to the economic and social development to plan for and admin-  
24 ister those activities in the regional service area on a common or  
25 cooperative basis; provide planning assistance to those departments  
26 or agencies; provide additional opportunities to residents of the  
27 regional service area to participate in these state department or  
28 agency activities;

29 (3) initiate and sponsor projects responsive to the economic

1 or social needs of residents of the regional service area which are  
2 not otherwise being met, with particular emphasis on providing central  
3 or common services that can be drawn upon by a variety of related  
4 programs, developing new approaches or new types of services that can  
5 be incorporated into other programs, and filling gaps pending the  
6 expansion or modification of those programs;

7 (4) establish effective procedures by which the residents  
8 of the regional service area concerned will be enabled to influence  
9 the character of state programs affecting their interests, provide for  
10 their regular participation in the implementation of those programs,  
11 and assist residents of the service area to secure on their own  
12 behalf available economic or social assistance from public and private  
13 sources;

14 (5) develop and implement plans under which the regional  
15 service area may assume the status of an organized borough when deemed  
16 appropriate by the inhabitants of the area;

17 (6) join with and encourage business, labor and other  
18 private groups and organizations to undertake, together with state  
19 departments and agencies, activities in support of the economic or  
20 social development of the regional service area;

21 (7) accept financial assistance in the performance of its  
22 functions;

23 (8) enter into agreements with state public corporations,  
24 departments and agencies for assistance in the performance of its  
25 functions;

26 (9) do all other acts necessary or proper to perform its  
27 functions under this chapter.

28 Sec. 07.07.060. ADMINISTRATION. The director of the Local  
29 Affairs Agency shall establish procedures and take such actions as he

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may deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the provisions of  
this chapter.

\* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect on July 1, 1971.