

Original sponsor: Rules Committee by
request of the Governor

Offered: 4/16/71
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE LOCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR 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 7. 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 borough
7 to remain in such areas. It is not the purpose of this chapter to en-
8 courage the residents of the unorganized borough to migrate to urban
9 areas, inasmuch as it is the finding of the legislature that such
10 migration is often not in the best interests of the residents of the
11 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 upon request of a
15 majority of the registered voters in the area. The standards shall
16 include population, geography, economy, transportation, and other factors
17 determined by the director of the Local Affairs Agency. Each regional
18 service area shall embrace an area and population with common interests
19 to the maximum degree possible.

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

29 Sec. 07.07.040. ELECTED COMMISSIONS. (a) The qualified voters

1 of a regional service area established under this chapter may elect
2 the regional service area commission if

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (5) develop and implement plans under which the regional
15 service area may assume the status of an organized borough when con-
16 sidered 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 consider necessary and appropriate to carry out the provisions of
this chapter.

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