

Introduced: 1/19/81  
Referred: Community & Regional  
Affairs and Health, Education  
& Social Services

1 IN THE SENATE

BY FERGUSON BY REQUEST

2 SENATE BILL NO. 95

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act requiring regional school board members to be  
7 elected from sections."

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

9 \* Section 1. AS 14.08.041(d) is amended to read:

10 (d) A regional [REGIONAL] school board member [MEMBERS] shall be  
11 elected from a section [AT LARGE] by the qualified voters of that sec-  
12 tion of [THE COMMUNITIES RECEIVING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES IN] the [ENTIRE]  
13 regional educational attendance area. A board member shall be elected  
14 from the section in which he resides. [HOWEVER, EACH SEAT ON THE  
15 SCHOOL BOARD SHALL BE DESIGNATED BY LETTER OR NUMBER, AND A CANDIDATE  
16 FOR REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MUST INDICATE THE SEAT FOR WHICH HE IS A  
17 CANDIDATE ON HIS DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY OR OTHER NOMINATION PAPERS  
18 WHEN HE FILES FOR OFFICE].

19 \* Sec. 2. AS 14.08.051(a) is amended to read:

20 (a) The commissioner in consultation with the Department of Com-  
21 munity and Regional Affairs and the local communities shall [MAY]  
22 divide a regional educational attendance area into sections [ONLY] for  
23 the purpose of nominating and electing regional school board members.  
24 Each [IF A REGIONAL ATTENDANCE AREA IS DIVIDED INTO SECTIONS EACH]  
25 school board member shall represent, as nearly as practicable, an equal  
26 number of persons. The basis for the division of a regional educational  
27 attendance area into sections shall be the total population of the area  
28 as reported in the most recent decennial federal census. If the census  
29 is five years old or older, then other reliable population data, includ-

1 ing but not limited to population estimates based on public school  
2 enrollments, public utility connections, registered voters or certified  
3 employment payrolls, shall be used as the basis for the division of the  
4 area into sections. Each section within a regional educational atten-  
5 dance area shall consist of compact, contiguous territory and, as far  
6 as practicable, each section shall contain an integrated socio-economic,  
7 linguistically and culturally homogeneous area. In the division of the  
8 regional school attendance area into sections, consideration shall be  
9 given to the transportation and communication network to facilitate the  
10 administration of education and communication between communities that  
11 comprise the area. Whenever possible, municipalities, other governmen-  
12 tal or regional corporate entities, drainage basins and other identifi-  
13 able geographic features shall be used in describing the boundaries of  
14 the sections.

15 \* Sec. 3. AS 14.08.051(c) is amended to read:

16 (c) The [IF A REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE AREA HAS BEEN  
17 DIVIDED INTO SECTIONS, THE] commissioner shall recast the boundaries of  
18 the sections within 90 days following the official reporting of the  
19 decennial federal census in accordance with (a) of this section.

20 \* Sec. 4. AS 14.08.061(b) is amended to read:

21 (b) If [A REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE AREA IS DIVIDED INTO  
22 SECTIONS UNDER AS 14.08.051 WHERE THE SCHOOL BOARD FORMERLY WAS ELECTED  
23 AT LARGE, OR IF] the number of regional school board members is in-  
24 creased or decreased by the qualified voters in the regional educa-  
25 tional attendance area under AS 14.08.041(b), the term of office of all  
26 members of the existing board shall terminate on the date on which the  
27 new board members take office, and the provisions of (a) of this sec-  
28 tion are applicable to the determination of the terms of office of the  
29 new members of the regional school boards.

1 \* Sec. 5. AS 14.08.051(b) and (e) are repealed.

2 \* Sec. 6. Within 60 days after the effective date of this Act, the  
3 Department of Community and Regional Affairs shall divide into sections  
4 regional educational attendance areas which are not divided into sections on  
5 the effective date of this Act. Within 120 days after the effective date of  
6 this Act, regional school board members shall be elected from sections to  
7 serve terms in accordance with AS 14.08.061(a). Members of regional school  
8 boards in office on the effective date of this Act continue in office until  
9 new members are elected and qualify to take office.

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