

Offered: 3/3/82
Referred: Health, Education
& Social Services

Original sponsor: Ferguson by request

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 95 (C&RA)

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

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For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to election of school board members."

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

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

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(d) Subject to (f) of this section, a regional [REGIONAL] school board member [MEMBERS] shall be elected at large by the qualified voters of the communities receiving educational services in the entire regional educational attendance area. However, each seat on the school board shall be designated by letter or number, and a candidate for regional school board must indicate the seat for which he is a candidate on his declaration of candidacy or other nomination papers when he files for office.

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* Sec. 2. AS 14.08.041 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

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(f) The voters residing within a regional educational attendance area may petition in accordance with AS 14.08.051(b) to have each regional school board member elected from a section of the area by the voters of that section.

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* Sec. 3. AS 14.08.051(a) is amended to read:

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(a) The commissioner in consultation with the Department of Community and Regional Affairs and the local communities may divide a regional educational attendance area into sections only for the purpose of nominating and electing regional school board members. If the voters in a regional educational attendance area favor election of regional school board members by sections under (b) of this section, the commissioner in consultation with the Department of Community and Regional

1 Affairs and the local communities shall divide the regional educational
2 attendance area into sections for the purpose of nominating and electing
3 regional school board members. If a regional attendance area is divided
4 into sections each school board member shall represent, as nearly as
5 practicable, an equal number of persons. The basis for the division of
6 a regional educational attendance area into sections shall be the total
7 population of the area as reported in the most recent decennial federal
8 census. If the census is five years old or older, then other reliable
9 population data, including but not limited to population estimates based
10 on public school enrollments, public utility connections, registered
11 voters or certified employment payrolls, shall be used as the basis for
12 the division of the area into sections. Each section within a regional
13 educational attendance area shall consist of compact, contiguous terri-
14 tory and, as far as practicable, each section shall contain an integrated
15 socio-economic, linguistically and culturally homogeneous area. In the
16 division of the regional school attendance area into sections, consider-
17 ation shall be given to the transportation and communication network to
18 facilitate the administration of education and communication between
19 communities that comprise the area. Whenever possible, municipalities,
20 other governmental or regional corporate entities, drainage basins and
21 other identifiable geographic features shall be used in describing the
22 boundaries of the sections.

23 * Sec. 4. AS 14.08.051(b) is amended to read:

24 (b) The division of a regional educational attendance area into
25 sections [,] or subsequent recasting of the section boundaries [,] may
26 be proposed by the regional school board or by a petition. The election
27 of each regional school board member from a section by the voters of
28 that section of a regional educational attendance area may be proposed
29 by petition. A petition under this section shall be filed with the

1 director of elections and shall contain [CONTAINING] signatures of
2 qualified voters in the area equal to 15 percent of the total vote cast
3 in the most recent regional school board election. The division of the
4 area into sections, election of each regional school board member from
5 a section by the voters of that section, or subsequent recasting of
6 section boundaries [,] is subject to approval by a majority of the
7 qualified voters voting on the question in the regional educational
8 attendance area at the next regular school board election or a special
9 election called for that purpose, and takes effect at the next regular
10 school board election.

11 * Sec. 5. AS 14.08.051(e) is amended to read:

12 (e) If a regional educational attendance area has been divided
13 into sections, board members shall be residents of the section from
14 which they are elected. Board members [, BUT THEY] shall be elected by
15 the qualified voters of the entire regional educational attendance
16 area, unless the voters have approved election of members by the voters
17 of the section under (b) of this section.

18 * Sec. 6. AS 14.12.030 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

19 (e) A school board member shall be elected at large by the voters
20 of the municipal school district. However, each seat on the school
21 board shall be designated by letter or number, and a candidate for
22 school board must indicate the seat for which he is a candidate on his
23 declaration of candidacy or other nomination papers when he files for
24 office.

25 * Sec. 7. Within six months after the effective date of this Act, in each
26 municipality that is a school district the school board members shall draw
27 lots to determine the number or letter that each seat on the school board
28 shall be designated. The drawing shall take place during a regular meeting
29 of the school board.