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1 IN THE SENATE

BY UEHLING, STURGULEWSKI AND
RODEY

2

SENATE BILL NO. 131

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Railbelt economic assistance
7 and recovery fund; and providing for an effective
8 date."

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

10 * Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Railbelt
11 Economic Assistance and Recovery Act.

12 * Sec. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds that the
13 economic downturn experienced by the state as a result of the decline in
14 world oil prices has been especially severe in the Railbelt area because it
15 is more developed and urban than other areas of the state. The decline in
16 property values has been especially significant in the Railbelt area during
17 the last several years. This decline in property values has coincided with
18 a decrease in state revenue available to municipalities. The result has
19 been an especially serious decline in the amount of revenue available to
20 Railbelt municipalities.

21 (b) The purpose of this legislation is to provide special financial
22 assistance to Railbelt municipalities to offset the loss of municipal
23 revenues experienced over the last several years and to encourage economic
24 recovery in that portion of the state that has been the most severely
25 affected by the current economic downturn in the state.

26 * Sec. 3. RAILBELT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND RECOVERY FUND. (a) There
27 is established in the Department of Administration the Railbelt economic
28 assistance and recovery fund consisting of appropriations to the fund.
29 Within 60 days after receipt of an appropriation to the fund, the entire

1 amount shall be distributed by the department to each Railbelt municipality
2 on a per capita basis.

3 (b) For purposes of determining the amount of an entitlement under
4 (a) of this section, the department shall determine the population of the
5 municipality based on the latest figures of the United States Bureau of the
6 Census or other reliable data. The population of a borough shall be
7 calculated by subtracting the population of each city in the borough.

8 (c) In this section "Railbelt municipality" means a municipality, as
9 that term is defined in AS 01.10.060, located within 25 miles of the right-
10 of-way of the Alaska Railroad or a city located within a borough located
11 within 25 miles of the right-of-way of the Alaska Railroad.

12 * Sec. 4. This Act is repealed July 1, 1990.

13 * Sec. 5. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).