

HB-223

HOUSE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
March 28, 1975

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 for discussion of HB 265, 266 HB 223 and SB 207 am. Present:

Representative Sam Cotten, Chairman
" Al Ose
" Larry Davis
" Kathryn Ostrosky'
" Glenn Hackney
" Oral Freeman
Barbara Englert Thomas, Staff
Andrea Guernsey, Staff'
Jean G. Muhou, City Clerk, Anchorage
Mary Coffery, Borough Clerk, GAAB
Judi Slajer, Borough Clerk, Ketchikan Borough
Donald E. Clocksin, Legal Services

HB 265, 266 (community assistance)

(495) First order of business of HB 265. Chairman Cotten read a letter from Commissioner McAnerney saying that only 1st and 2nd class cities were eligible for grants--Home Rule cities are not. This clears up Ose's problem of Anchorage maybe trying to use this program. Rep. Ostrosky moves to report bills out. Reps. Hackney and Freeman object. The Chairman calls for a show of votes to report out. Four voted to move out: Cotten, Davis, Ose and Ostrosky. Bills reported out with individual recommendations.

HB 223, SB 207am

(580) Next on the agenda were election bills. Ms. Slajer said they wanted the language of SB 255 in SB 207am. Hackney objects to taking up bills not in this committee (SB 255). Testimony was restricted to 207 and 223.

(712) Rep. Ostrosky notes technical error in spelling of the word "runoff". Word is hyphenated in SB 207 and not in HB 223.

(725) Ms. Slajer in favor of concept in SB 207 but want to change the wording a little. SB 255 is same but better wording. REp. Davis asked if it wasn't already in ordinance requiring run off for Mayor. Want to exempt all from run off except Mayor.

(767) Ostrosky asked if they needed a plurality vote? Yes, they do.

(775) Hackney-HB 223 requires exemption to be ratified by voters--essential. Different from SB 207. (800) Coffery explains problem with GAAB. Two different sets of standards for same body. Hackney wants people to be able to vote. Coffery wants option by ordinance. Rather than voting on the question the people would vote on the people and if they weren't satisfied the council would hear about it. (885) Ose definitely opposed to ordinance. (898) Freeman wants to know what is wrong with council making ordinances? (925) Ms. Coffery said this position was endorsed by the Alaska Association of Municipal clerks which includes 37 municipalities. (947) Hackney asked what objections they had to the people voting on the question. Jean's response was that the people would voice their displeasure. Coffery explained the GAAB situation. She thinks run off is farce.

(1059) Cotten agrees with Hackney. Question would not cost extra money. Would be voted on at general election or regular or special election. (1103) Jean said the voters didn't vote in the first place to require run off elections. Ostrosky asked what the sentiment was to drop run offs. Ms. Coffery said the association has held the same position for the last couple years. She has enough faith in governing body.

(1159) Ms. Slajr said that HB 223 does give some option.

(1175) Cotten-Home Rule cities exempt from whole thing. Home rule already has option with Charter.

(1230) Cotten asks Hackney if adding " of any of its officials" on line 11 would clear things up. Hackney has no objection.

Ms. Slajer said that SB 255 that there must be a run off for mayor and HB 223 would allow the people to vote on exempting any position so there will have to be a correlation sometime of that discrepancy.

(1265) Freeman suggests taking the language from HB 223 and placing it in SB 207 and let it be settled in free conference. Hackney has no objection. (1306) Freeman moves to report out a committee substitute for 207 which would delete paragraph B in 207 and replace it with para B in 223 with the addition of any of its officials on line 11.

Bill was reported out with committee substitute.

END 1363. Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

REQUESTED BY ASSEMBLYMAN CHARLES EVANS

GREATER ANCHORAGE AREA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 75-36

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING DELETION OF REQUIREMENT FOR RUNOFF ELECTION WHERE NO CANDIDATE FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE RECEIVES IN EXCESS OF 40% OF THE VOTES CAST

WHEREAS, voter turnouts in municipal runoff election have been historically very light and possibly unrepresentative of the electorate at large; and

WHEREAS, it is very costly to municipalities to hold runoff elections and to candidates to campaign in runoff elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE GREATER ANCHORAGE AREA BOROUGH:

1. That the Legislature be requested to repeal A.S. Title 29.28.040 requiring runoff elections in municipal elections and amend to provide for local options;

2. That copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the Senate, to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Community and Regional Affairs, to the Speaker of the House, to the Chairman of the House Committee on Community and Regional Affairs, to the Commissioner of Community and Regional Affairs and to the Executive Director of the Alaska Municipal League.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Assembly of the Greater Anchorage Area Borough this 17th day of April, 1975.

/s/ Jessie Daxson
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Coffey
Borough Clerk

APPROVED this 17th day of April, 1975.

/s/ John P. Roderick
Borough Mayor

Hearings

HB223

3/28/75

CRA

Municipal League

Rep. Ted Smith

Mary Cassee, GAAB clerk

Slater, Ketchikan clerk

Notified

Present

Testified

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