

H/B-589

COMMITTEE REPORT

1/16/76

HOUSE

Mr. Speaker:

Date 2-9-76

The Committee on COMMUNITY & REG. AP has had HB 589

under consideration. A Majority of the members of the Committee

recommends it DO PASS

recommends it DO NOT PASS

recommends it DO PASS WITH ATTACHED AMENDMENT(S)

recommends it BE REPLACED WITH CS FOR _____ AND THAT

CS FOR _____ DO PASS

"and" recommends it BE REFERRED TO THE _____

COMMITTEE

reports it back WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

"other"

Members signing the Majority report:

<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____
<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____

Members NOT concurring in the Majority report:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

[Signature] Chairman

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Members signing the Majority report:

_____	_____	_____
_____	<u>Mr. Wadsworth</u>	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Members NOT concurring in the Majority report:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ Chairman

HB 501

The Honorable Mike Bradner
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with AS 24.30.060(b) and the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, I am transmitting a bill relating to the election of municipal officials. The bill would change the present practice of holding two elections on the incorporation of a new municipality: one to determine whether to incorporate and the second to elect a council or assembly if the first vote favored incorporation. *see Nancy*

Section 1 of the bill would allow both questions to be determined at the same election, with no council or assembly members elected if the incorporation vote is negative. An inconsistent law at AS 29.18.120(a) is repealed.

The second section is a housekeeping provision and deletes those portions of the law that provided for representation on borough assemblies of city councils. The present composition of borough assemblies is provided by AS 29.23.020.

Section 3 establishes a policy that new municipalities will establish staggered terms on incorporation for their council or assembly members.

Sincerely,

Jay S. Hammond
Governor

HOUSE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2/9/76

Committee met at 9:00 a.m. for discussion of HB 589

Patti Ann Polley from Division of Elections testified on the bill.

As the law is written now they have to hold two elections, the first elections for the initial incorporation and basically that is the only question that appears on that ballot with the exception if there is a sales tax, then that would appear on the initial ballot. If incorporation isn't written, they go back and then set a new order of notice of election and hold the counsel election, so the Division of Elections would like to see it so that they can hold one election and prior to the change in the municipal code they did do the elections this way. They found that it did work well. It also saved the expense of having two elections. One of the main expenses of having two elections is the election board expense and with the salaries going up they are now paying \$4.50 and \$5.00 an hour to the election board members for the time spent on their election duties. Also the way the law is written now they are required to have two different sets of ballots. They would like to see all go on one ballot.

Ostrosky asked when it was changed.

Patti Ann Polley stated that she believed it was in 1972. She believed it was changed because they felt it might be confusing.

Rudd stated that she felt it was more than a "housekeeping" measure, she felt that it really does go to whether an incorporation election should be strictly on the merits of the idea of incorporation or whether you should lend more weight to the idea of incorporating by allowing candidates to put themselves forward at the same time and she was not sure that it is a good idea. On the whole she is a little bit opposed to the idea because she feels it does give much more weight to the 'dea that this is a good idea because you have candidates who are eager to do it. She felt maybe incorporation elections should be strictly on the issue and the idea of incorporation.

There was discussion on this.

Mr. Pritchard from C&RA gave a point of view from the Department. He stated that this had been discussed several times. They are very much in favor of having one election, both for incorporation and for initial officers. They have had many problems because people have understood that as soon as they were incorporated they were ready for business, but this means a long delay until the officers are elected, thus they are in favor. One of the other problems that they attempted to address in this particular bill was the fact that at the present time the initial officers serve two (2) years and then they can provide by ordinance terms not to exceed four (4) years if they so desire, but they are very anxious to see staggering terms which would give a continuity on a city council. After two years of service, they usually hold an election every year and there is no

continuity on the counsel, records seem to be lost and there isn't a familiarity of what has gone wrong, thus they would like to see the staggered terms whereby they would have a continuity of the counsels.

Patti Ann Polley stated that she figured they would save approximately \$6,000.00 a year by chopping the number of elections that they would have to have in half. The cost of ballots was discussed.

Oral Freeman moved to pass the bill out.

Chairman Cotten stated that HB 493 was going to be postponed because the sponsor asked to have it held.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am

I. REQUEST
 Bill No. 413589
 Title: "An Act Relating to the Election of Municipal Officials"
 Requested by: Governor's Office Date: 1/5/76
 Return Date Requested: 1/9/76
 Agency: Community & Regional Affairs Program: Development

II. FISCAL DETAIL
 Budget Request Unit(s) Affected: None

A. EXPENDITURES: (Thousands of dollars)

OBJECT	FY 76	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81
100 PERSONAL SERVICES		Ø				
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL		Ø				

B. FUNDING: (Thousands of dollars)

	FY 76	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81
GENERAL FUND		Ø				
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						

C. POSITIONS:

	FY 76	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81
PERMANENT/TEMPOARY	/	/	/	/	/	/
MAN MONTHS (P./T.)	/	/	/	/	/	/

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

IV. ATTACHMENTS

V. DATE: 1-6-76 PREPARED BY: Palmer McCarter

Palmer McCarter, Director
 Local Government Assistance

Original: Legislative Finance
 cc: Budget and Management
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)