

HB

9

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY RHODE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 9

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the requirements for runoff elec-
7 tions in municipal elections."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 29.28.040 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (b) A municipality may by ordinance ^{vote at reg. election} exempt itself from the require-
11 ments of this section and provide for plurality vote for election of
12 officials.

13 Kenai Pen. Runoff

- 14 '72 3500
- 15 '73 4000
- 16 '74 3500
- 17 '75 6000
- 18 '76 1600

19 with ~~exempt~~ ^{under this Act.}
 20 No ord. shall be effective
 21 until ~~the~~ the voters of
 22 the municipality have approved
 23 its adapt. at a reg. munic.
 24 etc

25 this under \$20,000 no election
 26 " over 20,000 ~~no~~ election

27 #

It was the third recent fatal diving accident at Kodiak.

Industry spokesman cites hopes, r

U.S. fishermen i

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government has shattered the hopes and ignored the needs of U.S. fishermen in drawing up plans for regulating fishing within the new 200-mile offshore zone, Congress was told today.

"We have taken a step backwards in the protection of our fisheries," said Paul T. Brayton, executive secretary of the Atlantic Offshore Fish & Lobster Association in testimony prepared for a Senate Commerce Committee hearing.

The committee is holding hearings on implementing the

expanded offshore zone under a law passed last year. Brayton told the committee that "the American fishing industry had achieved a number of gains in the industry."

"As a result of the new law, the industry is completely shut out of the zone during the past year."

The industry's primary concern has been to insure that the zone is not opened first."

"The needs of the fishery resource are being ignored."

Robert Schoning testified Monday that the U.S. fishermen have completed this year's fishing season.

Schoning said that the catch would be sharply reduced and would still catch up to the previous year.

Brayton said that the fishing industry is concerned about the scene of several years ago.

"The possibility of increased, controlled fishing law," he said.

Under questioning, he testified that the gear of U.S. fishermen are being penalized and that the fishermen could not catch up to the previous year.

Brayton opposed the plan by Ridgway, deputy secretary of the fisheries administration, for a review of foreign fishing vessels to be shortened.

He said that the order to insure that the zone is not opened first."

The State Department is making it impossible to implement the plan.

In other testimony, Glenn O. The Coast Guard is reactivating its helicopters to

Mayor runoff election Feb. 8

Officials of the Kodiak Island Borough have called a special election Tuesday, Feb. 8, for a runoff between the two vote-getters in last week's borough mayor election.

According to the final count of votes, reached today in the official canvassing, Wayne Kotula and Dorothy "Dottie" Paulson must appear again on the ballot since none of the six in the race garnered the 40 per cent required by law.

Kotula came close, as he needed 348 out of a total vote of 871. Today after the 25 challenged ballots and 10 absentee ballots were counted, Kotula had 341 votes. Paulson was a distant second with 158.

Paulson, contacted immediately after the canvassing, said she had called borough officials to say "It was obvious he was the choice of the voters."

Yet, apparently, a concession by Paulson would require the

candidate with the next highest count — Dan Ogg with 115 — to run against Kotula. Paulson's reaction to that opinion: "Well, I guess we'll have a rerun!"

She said, however, she thought it unnecessary to hold a runoff for an abbreviated term. She said she would rather the money be applied somewhere else. "My thought was just to save some money."

But as it is, Feb. 8 it will be Paulson versus Kotula.

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Kodiak Mirror 1-25-77





BOX 335

HOMER, ALASKA 99603

January 21, 1977

Mrs. Lisa Rudd
House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: HB 9, Runoff Elections in Municipal Elections
Hearing January 28

Dear Mrs. Rudd:

The City of Homer has continually supported the position that a municipality, through its elected body, should determine for itself if a runoff election is a necessary part of their election process.

Experience has shown that voter interest in a runoff election is extremely low, ranging between 10% or less turnout to 20% at the most. This is partly due to confusion created by a runoff election. The "runoff" election is quite different from a "primary" election. A primary election precedes the general election; the runoff follows it. The voter is accustomed to the general election being the deciding election. The runoff reverses this standard procedure.

The runoff election doubles the election expense.

A considerable hardship caused by the runoff election is the delay that results in organizing the Council. The runoff provision means that an entire month is lost. This is valuable time to the Councils that could be spent in running the business of the municipality rather than waiting for its final members.

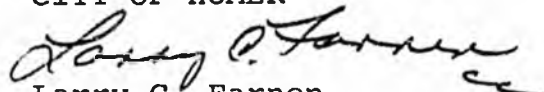
AS 29.28.010 mandates that the City Council "shall prescribe the rules for conducting municipal elections..." The legislature should not then try to prescribe what should be included in the municipal election process.

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The City of Homer encourages the passage of any bill which allows the municipalities, through their duly elected governing body, to provide for plurality elections for municipal office.

Very truly yours,

CITY OF HOMER



Larry C. Farnen
City Manager

LCF/cc