

SB

5088

SB 507  
SB 508

HB 781: AN ACT AUTHORIZING STATE AID TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL FACILITIES, and  
SB 782: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,106,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COST OF CULTURAL FACILITIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

These two bills would authorize the State to assist municipalities in the development and construction of cultural facilities through grants from a proposed "1978 Municipal Cultural Facility Fund". Because of the obvious need for cultural facilities in Anchorage, the Municipality of Anchorage supports this bill.

Sydney Laurence Auditorium and West High School Auditorium with respective seating capacities of 650 and 2,000 are the two primary performing arts facilities in Anchorage, and the Visual Arts Center is the only primary visual arts facility in Anchorage.

All three of these primary arts facilities are overused during the peak use period between January and April. Five different performing groups will want to reserve the same date for a performance at Sydney Laurence Auditorium or West High School Auditorium. Because the number of rehearsals exceed performances by a 7 to 1 ratio over actual performances, the usage problem for performing arts facilities is critical. Those performing groups fortunate enough to reserve a date at the primary facilities must often rehearse at cramped and wholly inadequate secondary facilities, and the performing groups not so fortunate must both perform and rehearse at such secondary facilities. The fact that the Visual Arts Center is overused is obvious because it is used daily - Sunday through Saturday - 52 weeks a year.

All three primary arts facilities are also inadequately equipped. Sydney Laurence Auditorium has inadequate lobby and box office and dressing room space. It has no shop and storage space and its audience floor is not sufficiently raked; therefore, sight lines are obscured. The stage, backstage, and storage space at West High Auditorium are all too small. It has no shower facility. The acoustics there are a problem, and the lighting and sound equipment is dated. Because the Visual Arts Center was originally designed as the Alaska Centennial Building, it is even more inadequately equipped than the other two primary arts facilities. It is overcrowded.

It lacks adequate lighting in the gallery and professional studios. It lacks adequate heating, and it has no special storage areas with technical consideration for art collection, unpacking shows, stone and other bulk materials.

Anchorage has become a remarkably prolific town for community artistic activities. It is much more active in this regard than other cities of identical size throughout the United States. Such interest deserves attention; the Municipality therefore urges action on HB 781 and HB 782 consistent with our needs.

S.E. ALASKA Empire Mon. April 17, 1978

# Culture Facility Funds Backed

Representatives from communities throughout the state returned to Juneau today to push for passage of a \$30 million bond issue for cultural facilities.

The House Finance Committee heard testimony from

members of the Cultural Facilities Development Committee, which represents 12 cities including a number in Southeast Alaska.

Among proposals presented was a \$12.3 million performing arts center for Juneau. It would include a theater to seat 700, a "forum" to seat 20 to 250 and scenery and costume workshops, dressing rooms and rehearsal halls as well as space for a television studio.

Other communities seeking funding for facilities under the bond package are Angoon, Haines, Skagway, Ketchikan, Sitka, Petersburg, Anchorage, Cordova, Dillingham, Naknek and Kodiak. Hydaburg recently has requested assistance from

the committee as well, a spokeswoman for the group said.

Most representatives testified their communities have insufficient space or no place to perform.

"We have nothing in Skagway," a spokeswoman for that community said. "Skagway has no arts program in the school because there is no facility for it."

"We've had programs at 10 o'clock at night to try and work around a basketball game," the Cordova spokeswoman said. "That community is forced to perform in the high school gym, she said.

"A cultural arts program cannot be developed in a gymnasium," the spokesman for

Petersburg, echoed.

Proposals for the 12 cities would cost \$80 million. However, the committee decided to break down the bonding to smaller pieces beginning with the \$30 million bond issue currently re-

quested.

The committee is recommending communities receive money "on a first come, first serve basis," Allan Gregg, chairman of the group, said.

WARREN C. CHRISTIANSON

ATTORNEY AT LAW

SITKA, ALASKA 99838

F: SB 508

POST OFFICE BOX 4

TELEPHONE 747-395X 6681

403 XSE LINCOLN STREET

March 14, 1978

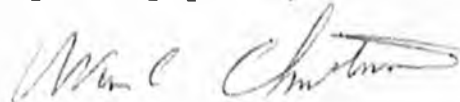
The Honorable Patrick Rodey  
Senate  
Pouch V, Mail Stop #3100  
Juneau, Alaska 99811.

Dear Senator Rodey:

The Sitka Community Action Group went on record March 13, 1978, as supporting your Senate Bill 508 and that of Representative Parr as to House Bill 768. We feel it is important to get this bond issue out to the voters and also feel that the quality of life is highly important in all of our Alaska communities. I want to add my personal support for these bills as well. I have seen what the summer arts camp here at Sheldon Jackson has done for my children and feel the cultural facilities would provide an even greater emphasis on this line one which is badly needed not only in Sitka, but in other communities as well.

Concerning Senate Bill 507 and House Bill 769, I must say that I much prefer Senate Bill 507 and also feel that the land itself should be considered as part of the contribution. Land is extremely valuable in Sitka as in most Alaskan cities and certainly represents a very valuable and significant part of the total cost.

Very truly yours,



Warren C. Christianson  
Chairman  
Sitka Community Action Group

cc: Chairman of House Community &  
& Regional Affairs  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99835

Chairman of House Finance  
Chairman of Senate Community & ✓  
& Regional Affairs  
Chairman of Senate Finance

# TELEGRAM

F. SB 507  
" 508

ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS INC.  
PHONE 246-6440  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

TIME 7 PM 9 51

02117 NL ANCHORAGE ALASKA 139 04-37 530P AST

RMS SEN. JOE ORSINI

ALASKA LEGISLATURE ROOM 101 ASSEMBLY BUILDING

JUN

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO HB335. TO PREVENT DOUBLE-COUNTING OF PEOPLE (IN COMPUTING LIMITATION ON STATE FUNDS) IN CASES WHERE ORGANIZED BOROUGHS CONTAIN ONE OR MORE CITIES WHICH QUALIFY AS MUNICIPALITIES.

INSERT THIS NEW PARAGRAPH AT THE END OF SECTION 43.18.222(A), AS PART OF SUBSECTION (A)

QUOTE PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT DOUBLE-COUNTING OF ANY POPULATION GROUP IS PROHIBITED. IN CASES WHERE AN ORGANIZED BOROUGH CONTAINS ONE OR MORE CITIES WHICH QUALIFY AS MUNICIPALITIES, THE LIMITATION ON TOTAL GRANTS TO THE BOROUGH AND TO THE CITIES THEREIN SHALL BE COMPUTED BASED ON THE TOTAL POPULATION WITHIN THE BOROUGH, SO THAT PERSONS RESIDING BOTH IN THE BOROUGH AND IN A CITY THEREIN SHALL BE COUNTED ONLY ONCE. THE TOTAL MAXIMUM ENTITLEMENT THUS OBTAINED SHALL BE APPORTIONED AMONG THE BOROUGH AND THE CITIES WITHIN IT, FOR ANY CALENDAR YEAR, IN THAT PROPORTION WHICH THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE MUNICIPALITY (EXCLUDING FUNDS FOR EDUCATION PURPOSES) BEARS TO THE TOTAL OF THE OPERATING BUDGETS FOR ALL OF THE MUNICIPALITIES IN THE BOROUGH INCLUDING THE BOROUGH ITSELF (EXCLUDING FUNDS FOR EDUCATION PURPOSES) FOR THE PRIOR CALENDAR YEAR. UNQUOTE

MAX HODEL, BREAKTHROUGH

Friday, April 7th  
Assembly 103

↓ Joe  
F: 513 507  
508

Senator Orsini:

We received a phone call from Nome today, from Lynn Chambers and Leo Rasmussen, asking us to pass on the message to you that, in answer to your letter to Mayor Rasmussen, yes, they do want to be included in the Cultural Facilities monies.

They want 5.63 million for a Cultural Center in Nome for the Northwest Alaska Region.

Leo Rasmussen is following up this message with a letter to you.

Fran Cole  
A.A. for Representative Nakak

Message copies: Rep. Schaeffer  
Sen. Ferguson

# Downtown Group Explores Proposals Of Breakthrough

A multi-million dollar improvement package for Anchorage was explained by Breakthrough officials and explored by the Downtown Anchorage Association last night.

Breakthrough, a volunteer citizens' group, developed the recommendations for improvements in community facilities, roads, mass transit, parks and other areas over a year of study. The improvement package totals about \$750 million in projects over the next five to seven years, the group's chairman said last night.

The group hopes to fund the local share of that package through a \$126 million bond election tentatively planned for May 23.

Chairman Max Hodel said Breakthrough representatives will appear at as many community and organization meetings as possible over the next few weeks to air the improvement recommendations.

Also on hand for the meeting at the Anchorage Westward Hilton Hotel last night were Anchorage Assembly members Dave Rose, Arliss Sturgulewski and Tony Knowles and Municipal Manager Doug Weiford.

Breakthrough anticipates that most of that \$750 million improvement package will be footed by state

and federal sources, with the local share, after grants, to be about \$250 million. The group hopes to cut that figure in half with a bill to be introduced in the Legislature calling for 50 percent state support of municipal capital improvement projects in cities across the state.

The group has proposed a special bond election May 23 on nine propositions totaling about \$126 million — the figure Breakthrough says needs to be funded by local bonds. That issue is now before the Anchorage Municipal Assembly, which has scheduled a work session at 5 p.m. today to dig deeper into the Breakthrough package.

Following two public hearings, tentatively planned for April 11 and April 18, the assembly must approve motions to place each proposition on the ballot.

Among the Breakthrough recommendations:

— Creation of a one-way grid street system in the downtown core to handle traffic more efficiently.

— The addition of about 2,200 parking spaces in the central business district.

— Construction of a \$63 million complex, composed of two separate buildings, one to house a convention-

sports center and the other for a performing and visual arts center.

— A \$30 million municipal office complex to consolidate offices now spread over several locations throughout the municipality.

— A new headquarters library on the existing Denali School site.

— A massive road improvement package totaling about \$180 million over the next five years.

— A \$4.9 million local commitment to mass transit, to be used as the local match for federal grants to purchase buses for the municipality's People Mover system.

— Creation of a development corporation to spur a new retail complex in the central business district, with hopes of attracting a third major department store to "anchor" the downtown business area.

— Improvements and expansion of the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum.

The package got a mixed reception last night from the Downtown Anchorage Association, a group of downtown merchants.

The recommended parking improvements got perhaps the warmest reception from the merchants, many of whom have long complained of inadequate parking in the central business district.

Dan Stewart criticized the one-way grid recommendation. "I have been very annoyed by these grids," Stewart said, noting that a wrong turn may take eight blocks of travel to correct.

Other merchants criticized other facets of the package.

Several, however, applauded the Breakthrough effort.

"I really think these people have really worked hard," said Sewell Faulkner. "They've recommended a lot of things that can really help us downtown."

Budd Parsell, president of the association, termed the Breakthrough package one that "really has something for everyone" and cited a "need to appeal to as many of the voters as possible" before the planned May bond election.

Weiford, the municipal manager, announced the administration's support for the proposal.

"The recommendations of Breakthrough are mind boggling," he said.

"I dare say you couldn't find a single person who would agree with everything" in the package, Weiford said. But "what I think is true (is that) here we have had a truly remarkable, distinctive, different kind of citizen involvement in this community."

Rose applauded the plan, terming it a "comprehensive" approach to solving Anchorage problems rather than "a piecemeal approach."

Rose said he hopes differences of opinion about the plan can be resolved "so we have a pretty good consensus on where we want to go before we get to the ballot box."

LETTERS SENT TO THE MAYORS OF: Fairbanks, Fairbanks North Star Borough, North Slope Borough, Bethel, Nome, Seward, Kenai, Yakutat, Kotzebue, Delta Junction, Nenana, Palmer, Mat-Su Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Fort Yukon, Unalaska, North Pole, Galena, Wrangell, Soldotna, Wasilla and Homer.



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

Senate  
Committee on  
Community & Regional Affairs

Pouch V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

March 14, 1978

Jonathan Solomon, Mayor  
City of Fort Yukon  
P. O. Box 269  
Fort Yukon, Alaska 99740

Dear Mayor Solomon:

Senate Bills 507 and 508 authorizing state aid to municipalities for the construction and development of cultural facilities have been referred to this Committee for review and consideration. (Copies of the bills are attached for your information).

At this time, the Committee is aware of twelve Alaskan communities which have proposed slightly over \$72 million in cultural projects under the provisions of this legislation introduced by Senator Pat Rodey. They include Dillingham (\$9 million), Cordova (\$3.4 million), and Petersburg (\$3.5 million). Since your community was not one of those listing plans for cultural facilities, I would appreciate your reviewing the attached bills and notifying the Committee if your community would wish to participate in the cultural facilities program, assuming it is approved by the Legislature.

I would also appreciate any other comments or suggestions you might have on the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Orsini".

JOE ORSINI  
Chairman, Senate  
Community and Regional  
Affairs Committee

JO:gd

Enclosure(s): SB 507 and 508

Cultural Facilities Development Committee  
(Data for Bond Issue)

UPDATE

SKAGWAY: Contact Person

Dianna Cates  
Executive Secretary  
Skagway Fine Arts Council  
P.O. Box 116  
Skagway, Ak. 99840  
Ph. 983-2378

The Skagway cultural facility plan has been updated and revised to create a new multi-purpose cultural building. The updated plans include theatre, museum, archives, court space, city government offices, and day care. The building will provide a civic center for a growing population and for the 100,000+ tourists who visit Skagway each year. For this new facility projected cost is 4.7 million

Dear Legislator:

The informational packet you received concerning 12 communities' projected Cultural Facilities did not include this update on Skagway's plan. Please include this in your information about the Cultural Facilities Development Committee.

If additional information is needed at this time, please call the CFDC Coordinator, Shirley Rediger, at 586-6806.



CULTURAL FACILITIES  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

STATE COORDINATOR

*Shirley G. Rediger*

127 SO. FRANKLIN STREET  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

586-6806 - JUNEAU  
225-3077 - KETCHIKAN

## STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

POUCH S - JUNEAU 99811

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

February 16, 1978

The Honorable Joseph Orsini  
Chairman  
Senate Community & Regional  
Affairs Committee  
Room 100 - Assembly  
Juneau, Alaska

Re: Senate Bill No. 508

Dear Senator Orsini:

Senate Bill No. 508, an Act providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$30,106,000 for the purpose of paying the cost of cultural facilities, was introduced in the Senate on February 14, 1978 and was referred to the Senate Community and Regional Affairs and Finance Committees.

The State's Bond Counsel, Mr. C. Richard Walker of Orrick, Herrington, Rowley and Sutcliffe has advised that general obligations bonds of the State and nearly all other state and local government bonds are issued in the denomination of \$5,000, the standard unit.

Using Senate Bill No. 508 as an example, according to Mr. Walker, this would result in issuing one odd bond in the denomination of \$1,000 along with 6,021 bonds in the usual denomination of \$5,000.

Issuing a bond in an odd denomination requires extra time and expense in connection with the preparation of the resolution, notice of sale, official statement and other documents relating to the bonds and the printing of the one odd bond with all its special coupons.

Consequently, it is respectfully recommended that the proposed legislation be amended to allow for rounding off the principal amount of the proposed bond issue to the nearest \$5,000 by making the principal amount in the bill to read \$30,105,000.

Very truly yours,



R. D. Stevenson  
Special Assistant

cc: The Honorable John C. Sackett  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska

Sterling Gallagher  
Commissioner of Revenue  
Secretary, State Bond Committee

David Klemmer, Debt Manager  
Treasury Division  
Department of Revenue



# THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

CAPITAL OF ALASKA

155 SOUTH SEWARD ST. JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

DATE: June 6, 1978

FILE NO. Legislature - 1978 Session  
HB 781

SUBJECT: Support for Cultural Facilities  
Legislation

Honorable Joseph Orsini, Chairman  
Senate Community Regional Affairs Committee  
Pcuch V - Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Orsini,

An article in last night's Southeast Alaska Empire indicates that you or your committee believe that there is inadequate interest in the cultural facilities bills which are in your committee to bring them up for a hearing. Prior experience with the Empire has led me to conclude that it more often than not sacrifices accuracy for dramatic impact. For that reason I presume that neither you nor the committee has taken as firm a position on the cultural facilities bills as the Empire article indicates.

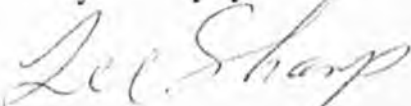
The City and Borough of Juneau fully supports the approach expressed in House Bill 781 for state assistance to municipalities for the construction of cultural facilities. This bill is now in your committee and we urge you to schedule it for hearing at the earliest possible date and to refer the bill out so that the entire Senate may be given an opportunity to express its position on state aid for cultural facilities.

Ms. Shirley Rediger of the statewide Cultural Facilities Development Committee has provided your committee with material which consists of fairly detailed proposals for each of the major communities, including Juneau, which are interested in constructing cultural facilities. These proposals deal with most of the information which your committee had requested earlier this year. On the chance that the committee-provided information was inadequate, our public works department is now preparing a response to the specific request for information. I have been informed that both Ms. Jane Stewart of the Juneau Cultural Facilities Development Committee and the various potential users of a local cultural facility have written to your committee expressing theirs and the community's support for the cultural facilities bills. The assembly has designated Ms. Stewart and the Juneau committee to represent it on the state committee. We support both the local and the state committee efforts to

Honorable Joseph Orsini  
June 6, 1978  
Page Two

have legislation such as House Bill 781 passed. We again urge you to schedule this bill and one or more of the companion bond bills for a hearing and urge you to pass them out of committee. Only by doing so will the communities in Alaska have any hope of acquiring facilities adequate to meet their needs for facilities which can be utilized to support and perpetuate the cultural arts and local culture.

Very truly yours,



Gerald L. Sharp  
City/Borough Attorney

GLS/sm

cc: Senators Willis, Ferguson, Hackney, and Sumner  
Mayor Overstreet  
Jane Stewart, Juneau CFDC