

HB

341

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

FURTHER: JUDICIARY

March 6, 1979

Date: 4 1 79

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on C&RA has had HB 341

"An Act relating to the requirements for runoff elections in municipal elections."

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for HB 341 same title
 new title
- and recommends 03 Pass
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
NO PASS

Bob DeLoach

Thomas

William

Robert

Paul

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Bill Paul

CHAIRMAN



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on

Community & Regional Affairs

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Official Business

DATE: 4/2/79
3/30/79

BILL NUMBER AND TITLE: HB 341 Related to runoffs in municipal elections

ORIGINAL SPONSOR :

OTHER SPONSORS:

RECEIVED FROM:

FURTHER REFERRALS:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Parker
Carney Branson
Zharoff O'Connell
Metcalfe Parr

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Metcalfe
O'Connell

INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

WITNESSES TESTIFYING:

Ginney Chitwood, Municipal League

Favors giving option of going with 40% majority. Other bills would have repealed 40% requirement altogether. What is 40%-- how is it determined? This is addressed in HB 341. Low voter turnout is a key feature of the runoff elections. The runoff rarely changes the outcome of the original election. There is an overshadowing of state and federal campaigning when a runoff is being held. Anchorage would not be affected by this as their charter requires a runoff.

Parker suggests deleting ("unless Council or Assembly provides otherwise by ordinance")

Branson thinks that the mayor should have to be elected with the 40% support.

Chitwood- Individual municipalities could deal with this point. Initiative and referendum powers are protection for the public on this point.

O'Connell sees a certain threat to the integrity of an election which is based on the fact that everyone had a chance to vote and the majority elects.

It is decided that the option is acceptable if the opt-out ordinance is ratified by the public through the ordinance process. CS incorporating this concept is passed out of committee.

COMMITTEE ACTION: CS passed out by Committee.

TAPE # 6 SIDE 1

Sections 597-600, 690-774

ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS

Tabulation of Data from Election Survey

Regular and Runoff Elections

Year	(1) Number of Municipalities which held Runoff Elections	(2) Number of Seats in Runoff Election	(3) Number of Seats in which Runoff Changed Results	(4) Number of those Voting in Reg. Elec.**	(5) Number of those Voting in Runoff Elections	(6) Voter Turnout Difference (4) - (5)
1972	4	5	0	35,580	16,070	19,510 (55%) less in runoff
1973	3	6	1	6,735	4,208	2,527 (33%) less in runoff
1974	4	5	1	10,951	4,546	6,405 (68.5%) less in runoff
1975	4	5	1	28,035	11,936	16,099 (57.4%) less in runoff
1976	5	8	1	31,307	13,919	17,388 (55.6%) less in runoff

(7) % of Registered Voting in Reg. Elec.	(8) % of Registered Voting in Runoff Elec.	Comments
41.6%	18.4%	
30.2%	21.5%	
26%	15%	
29%	12%	
28%	11%	\$66,825 cost to municipalities for runoff**\$4.80/person voting in runoff

**Figures for only those municipalities having runoffs

Note: Runoff provision applies to 12 of 19 municipalities reporting

Municipalities Reporting:

- Wasilla
- Nome
- Fairbanks North Star Borough
- Anchorage Municipality & old Boro
- Soldotna
- Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Homer

- Kodiak
- Skagway
- Haines
- Dillingham
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough
- Wrangell
- Valdez
- Juneau-City/Boro
- Cordova
- Sitka-City/Boro
- North Pole
- Ketchikan-City