

SB

169

March 14, 1979

Tony Schuerch
Box 60F
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

Dear Mr. Schuerch:

The Judiciary Committee just passed out Senate Bill 169. It should be on the calendar in a day or two, and I have no hesitation in predicting that you'll get your new Superior Court judge for Kotzebue, although the Anchorage judgeship may be in jeopardy.

We all recognize the problem.

Regards,

Robert H. Ziegler, Sr.
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

RHZ/pkz

cc - Senator Ferguson

Kobuk Valley Educational Services

P.O. Box 606
KOTZEBUE, Alaska 99752
PHONE (907) 442-3272

March 7, 1979

Senator Robert Zeigler
Senate Judiciary Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska, 99811

Dear Senator Zeigler;

I was referred to you by Senator Frank Ferguson, who represents us in the senate. Recently I wrote to Senator Ferguson, expressing my deep concern for the need of a superior court judge here in Kotzebue. He responded by sending me a copy of SB 169, which he introduced. He suggested I write to you, since the bill is in your judiciary committee.

This bill has my full support. It calls for two additional superior court judgeships, one to be located in Kotzebue. I urge and plead that you do everything in your power to make this bill into law. We are in desperate need of a superior court judge here in Kotzebue to try felonies.

Right now the only superior court judge we have in the area is located in Nome. Yet there are more reported felonies in the Kotzebue region than in the Nome region. In order to take care of these, the entire court has to fly here from Nome to hold trial, at which time they are not available to serve the Nome area. Because they are spread so thin, both areas suffer.

In the Kotzebue area, I estimate that right now less than one-tenth of the reported felonies are prosecuted, let alone go to trial. The offenders, realizing they will not be called to account for their offenses, are repeating them. It has reached the point where many of our Native people are living each day in fear for their safety, and the safety of their families and property.

Recently, the Kotzebue chief of police showed me a stack of tapes of the testimony of rape victims. He was told by the district attorney these will not be prosecuted unless a third party witnessed the act and is willing to testify. The DA is not prosecuting but a token number of felonies, presumably because of the heavy caseload.

I don't know much about the law; my field is education. But I do know the villages and our Native people of the Nome and Kotzebue regions. I know they feel, as I do, that the system of justice has broken down, and that there is no protection for them in the law. Unlike most White people, our Native people don't usually speak out strongly for their rights. They simply endure.

For the benefit of all the people of our judicial district, I strongly urge that you support Senator Ferguson's SB 169.

cc: Senator Ed Dankworth
Senator Don Bennett
Senator Pete Meland
Bering Straights newspaper
Senator Frank Ferguson
Governor Jay Hammond
Senator Bill Ray

Sincerely,

Tony Schuerch
Tony Schuerch

CITY OF KOTZEBUE

P.O. BOX 46
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA 99752
907-442-3351

POLICE DEPARTMENT

March 9, 1979

Senator Robert Zeigler
Senate Judiciary Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Zeigler:

I would like to voice my support of SB 169 which would place a superior court position in Kotzebue. It is sorely needed.

Presently we are served by Magistrate Ross Schaeffer and Assistant Magistrate Hensley. It is too bad Magistrate Schaeffer cannot be elevated to a District Judgeship. He does outstanding work in his community, is well respected by citizen and Police alike. He is a credit to his profession.

Sincerely,



DONALD E. BUEHLER
Chief of Police

DEB/dew

"GATEWAY TO NORTHWEST ALASKA"

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. SB 169
 Title An Act Relating to the Number of Superior Court Judges
 Requested by Senate Judiciary Date February 21, 1979

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Alaska Court System
 Program Category Affected Administration of Justice
 Budget Request Unit(s) Affected Alaska Court System

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
100 PERSONAL SERVICES		139.7	148.1	157.0	166.4	176.4
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT		8.0				
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL		147.7	148.1	157.0	166.4	176.4

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		147.7	148.1	157.0	166.4	176.4
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify)						

POSITIONS

FULL TIME		4	4	4	4	4
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

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

SB 169 creates two Superior Court judge positions - one in Kotzebue and one in Anchorage. The Kotzebue position is an upgrade and transfer of the existing district court judge position in Nome, while the Anchorage judgeship requires the establishment of a new position.

A detailed summary of the costs associated with each position is provided on the attachment budget detail.

IV. DATE February 28, 1979 PREPARED BY Richard P. Barrier
 AGENCY Alaska Court System
 PHONE 264-0545
 Original: Legislative Finance
 cc: Budget and Management
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

BUDGET DETAIL - SB 169

Kotzebue

Personnel:	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Total</u>
Superior Court Judge	\$57,072	\$5,567	\$62,639
Less: District Court Judge	48,252	5,214	(53,466)
Secretary/In-Court Clk	23,203	7,392	<u>30,600</u>
			\$39,773

Equipment:	<u>Judge</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	
Desk	463	426	
Chair	163	188	
Typewriter		820	
Bookcases	164		
Legal Reference Materials	700		
Credenza	282		
	<u>1,772</u>	<u>1,434</u>	<u>3,206</u>
		Kotzebue Total	\$42,979

Anchorage

Personnel:	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Total</u>
Superior Court Judge	\$48,576	\$5,227	\$53,803
Secretary	16,812	6,260	23,072
In-Court Clerk	16,812	6,260	<u>23,072</u>
			\$99,947

Equipment:	<u>Judge</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>In-Court</u>	
Desk	463	426	426	
Chair	163	188	188	
Typewriter		820		
Recorder			1,000	
Bookcases	168			
Legal Reference Materials	700			
Credenza	282			
	<u>1,776</u>	<u>1,434</u>	<u>1,164</u>	<u>4,824</u>
		Anchorage Total		\$104,771

Total FY 80 Cost - Kotzebue: \$ 42,979
 Anchorage: 104,771
 \$147,750