

SB

203

Alaska State Legislature

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POSITION PAPER FOR SB 203:

REQUIRING UNIFIED MUNICIPALITIES TO PROVIDE POLICE PROTECTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AREA WIDE

SB 203, introduced by the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee at the request of the Municipality of Anchorage, would require unified municipalities to provide law enforcement services on an areawide basis.

There are three unified municipalities in Alaska: Anchorage, Juneau, and Sitka. Both Juneau and Sitka currently provide areawide police coverage. The Municipality of Anchorage provides police service to approximately 80% of Anchorage. Hillside and portions of East South Anchorage have repeatedly rejected paying for police coverage, most recently this past April in municipal elections. (The Basher area and Southeast Midtown did vote to join the police service area effective January 1, 1994.)

The issues are public safety and equity among Anchorage's residents. As of this past summer, the State Troopers are not directly hooked up to the city's new enhanced 911 system and emergency response will be severely hampered. This is particularly alarming given that there are seven elementary and two secondary schools in the non-service area. The current system on the hillside, in which police officers respond to a call only if there is a car available, does not provide sufficient protection for the hundreds of teachers and students in that area. It is ironic that residents of Hillside and East South Anchorage want the rest of the city to help pay for their new schools, but they won't contribute to police coverage for them.

The second issue is simple fairness. While these residents do not help pay as does the rest of Anchorage's residents, they receive free emergency back-up from the Anchorage police department and State Troopers at their homes. Moreover they receive the benefit of regular free service when working, shopping, or engaging in other activity while in the rest of the city. It's time they pay for these services.

If enacted, this legislation would override any municipal charter prohibitions or local area vote.

BILL NO: SB 203

DATE: October 5, 1993

TITLE: "An Act requiring unified municipalities to provide police protection enforcement services. . ."

CONTACT: C.E. Swackhammer Deputy Commissioner 465-4322

SB 203 states that a unified municipality shall provide police protection and law enforcement services within the entire area of the municipality. This legislation adds police protection to the list of provisions limiting home rule powers and the bill provides that the municipality has until January 1, 1994 to begin providing services.

In SB 203 the legislature finds that

- 1) the provision of poice protection and law enforcement services is a fundamental responsibility of government;
2) unified municipalities should assume this responsibility by providing for police protection and law enforcement throughout their jurisdiction on a uniform basis; and
3) the cost of police protection and law enforcement should be paid from general municipal revenues and borne by the residents uniformly.

This legislation can help to contain growth in calls for Trooper services and improve the chances of being able to reallocate some trooper resources to critical traffic and other enforcement areas.

Reductions to the budget of the Alaska State Troopers have been made in prior years that were directed toward reducing services to local governments. Between FY86 and FY88 significant reductions were made to the budget of the Alaska State Troopers which included the loss of 46 positions, a portion of which were directly attributable to the legislature's desire to limit service to unified municipalities. Legislative Intent statements included in the FY86 and FY 92 budgets are representative of the reasons provided for the reductions:

"IT IS THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATURE THAT ALASKA STATE TROOPER SERVICES SHALL NOT BE PROVIDED AFTER JULY 1,1987 TO THOSE ORGANIZED CITIES, BOROUGH, AND MUNICIPALITIES WHICH HAVE POLICE POWERS." (FY86 short form, page 35)

"IT IS THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATURE THAT THE ALASKA STATE TROOPER POSITIONS BE ELIMINATED FROM THE HILLSIDE SERVICE AREA BY OCTOBER 1,1991." (FY92 short form, page 37-A)

Passage of Senate Bill 203 could help allow AST to more appropriately address its traffic enforcement responsibilities with the goal of reducing fatal and serious injury accidents.

The Department of Public Safety supports legislation which requires a unified municipality to provide police protection to the residents of the municipality.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. L. Burton".

Richard L. Burton
Commissioner

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: SB 203

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Public Safety
 Title: "An act requiring unified municipalities to provide police protection and law enforcement." BRU: Alaska State Troopers
 Sponsor: Senate Labor and Commerce Component: Detachments
 Requestor: Senate Community & Regional Affairs COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 799

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

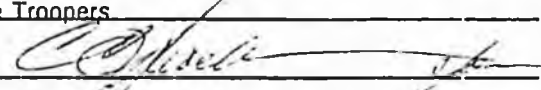
POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year (FY 94) impact: \$ _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

No fiscal impact is anticipated.

Prepared By: Francis C. Allan Phone: 269-5691
 Division: Alaska State Troopers Date: 10/5/93
 Approved by Commissioner:  Date: 10/5/93
 Agency: Richard L. Burton, Dept. of Public Safety

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