

HB

392

HOUSE BILL NO. 392

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE IVAN

Introduced:

Referred:

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the affirmative vote necessary to amend the articles of
2 incorporation of Native village corporations to authorize the classification of
3 directors."

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

5 * Section 1. Section 10, ch. 166, SLA 1988, as amended by sec. 57, ch. 50, SLA 1989,
6 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 (d) Notwithstanding (a) of this section and AS 10.06.455(b), an amendment to
8 the articles of incorporation of a village corporation organized under 43 U.S.C. 1601 -
9 1629e (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) and incorporated under former
10 AS 10.05.005 to add a provision authorizing the classification of directors under
11 AS 10.06.455 may be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares
12 represented at a regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present in person or by
13 proxy.

Alaska State House of Representatives
House District 39

Session
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4942



Interim
P.O. Box 137
Akiak, Alaska 99552
Phone: (907) 765-7526

Representative Ivan M. Ivan

SPONSOR STATEMENT - HOUSE BILL 392

This bill amends the Alaska Corporations Code to authorize ANCSA village corporations to provide for Board of Director classification in their bylaws. If enacted, House Bill 392 would allow ANCSA village corporations to amend their articles of incorporation to authorize a classified or staggered term board of directors by a majority vote of the shares represented at a meeting of shareholders.

Under current law, for those villages which did not have classified boards in place by July 1, 1989, such an amendment requires a vote of two-thirds of all outstanding shares entitled to vote. This is often difficult for village corporations to achieve. House Bill 392 rectifies that situation.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 392

Revision Date: _____
Title: Native Corp Director Classification
Sponsor: Representative Ivan
Requestor: _____

Department: Commerce and Economic Development
BRU: Banking, Securities and Corporations
Component: Banking, Securities and Corporations

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1233

Expenditures/Revenues	(Thousands of Dollars)					
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUND SOURCE	(Thousands of Dollars)					
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 General Fund						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY 96) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS						
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Willis F. Kirkpatrick, Director *Willis F. Kirkpatrick* Phone: 465-2521
 Division: Banking, Securities and Corporations Date: 1-10-96
 Approved by Commissioner: William L. Hensley *W. L. Hensley* Date: 1-10-96
 Agency: Commerce and Economic Development

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: HB 392

Revision Date: 1/9/96 Dept. Affected: Community & Regional Affairs
 Title: relating to the affirmative vote necessary BRU: _____
to amend articles of inc. of Native village corp Component: _____
 Sponsor: Rep. Ivan
 Requestor: Rep. Ivan COMPONENT SERIAL NO. _____

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

OPERATING	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES () Revenue Code						
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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	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of current year (FY 95) impact: \$ none

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: Remond Henderson, Director *Remond Henderson* Phone: 465-4808
 Division: Administrative Services Date: 1/9/96
 Approved by Commissioner: Mike Irwin *Mike Irwin* Date: 1/9/96
 Agency: Mike Irwin, Dept. of Community & Reg. Affairs

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*Swan Lake Corporation
Board of Directors
Resolution 95-17*

A resolution to amend the Alaska Corporation Code (AS 10.26.455 (a)) ANCSA village corporations Articles of Incorporation and By Laws - Classified Boards

WHEREAS, under the Corporation's current form of Articles of Incorporation and By Laws, the Board of Directors is comprised of seven members who are elected annually; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors have determined that it is in the Corporation's best interests to classify the Board into three classes with three-year staggered terms; and

WHEREAS, under the Alaska Corporation's Code (AS 10.06.455 (a)), a classified board must be authorized in a corporation's Articles of Incorporation; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation's Articles presently contain no such authority; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide such authority in the Articles of Incorporation, an amendment to the Article must be approved by at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote on the amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation has attempted such an amendment in the last two annual shareholder meetings, but has been unable to even have two-thirds of all shares represented at the meetings; and

WHEREAS, it is very common for ANCSA village Corporations to be unable to obtain a two thirds attendance in person or by proxy, at a shareholder's meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that it should request that the Alaska Federation of Natives and Calista Corporation work towards an amendment to the Alaska Corporations Code to address this high voting percentage requirements;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT IS RESOLVED by the delegates to the 1995 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that Aurelia Brown, as Chairperson and President of the Corporation, be and hereby is authorized and directed to contact and work in conjunction with Calista, the Alaska Federation of Natives, and the Corporation's attorney to attempt to amend the Alaska Corporations Code to provide for either (i) a lower voting percentage to amend

ANCSA village corporation's Articles with respect to authority for classified boards; (ii) the authority in a Board of Directors to amend a Corporation's By Laws to provide for a classified board; or (iii) some similar amendment that would assist ANCSA village Corporations in establishing classified boards.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum on the 13th day of September 1995, with 4 present and 3 absent, also by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed and three absent of the Swan Lake Corporation Board of Directors

Aurelia Brown
Aurelia Brown
Chairperson

ATTEST: Justin Ignatius Sr.
Justin Ignatius, Sr.
Secretary

NAPASKIAK INCORPORATED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION NO. 95-05

WHEREAS, under the corporation's current form of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the Board of Directors is comprised of five members who are elected annually; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that it is in the corporation's best interests to classify the Board into three classes with three-year staggered terms; and

WHEREAS, under the Alaska Corporations Code (AS 10.06.455(a)), a classified board must be authorized in a corporation's Articles of Incorporation; and

WHEREAS, the corporation's Articles presently contain no such authority;
and

WHEREAS, in order to provide such authority in the corporation's Articles of Incorporation an amendment to the Articles must be approved by at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote on the amendment; and

WHEREAS, the corporation is not able to obtain even a two-thirds attendance, in person or by proxy, at shareholder meetings; and

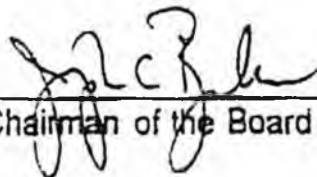
WHEREAS, it is very common for ANCSA village corporations to be unable to obtain a two-thirds attendance, in person or by proxy, at a shareholder's meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that it should request that the Alaska Federation of Natives and Calista Corporation work towards an amendment to the Alaska Corporations Code to address this high voting percentage requirement; therefore

IT IS RESOLVED, that Joseph Bavilla, as Chairman and President, and Steven Maxie, Jr., as General Manager, be and hereby are authorized and directed to contact and work in conjunction with Calista Corporation, the Alaska Federation of Natives, and the corporation's attorney to attempt to amend the Alaska Corporations Code to provide

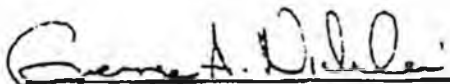
for either (i) a lower voting percentage to amend ANCSA village corporations' Articles with respect to authority for classified boards; (ii) the authority in a Board of Director's to amend a corporation's Bylaws to provide for a classified board; or (iii) some similar amendment that would assist ANCSA village corporations in establishing classified boards.

5 DATED this 2nd day of October, 1995, be a vote of 5 in favor, and 0 opposed.



Chairman of the Board

ATTESTED TO:



Secretary

FOSTER PEPPER & SHEFELMAN

A LAW PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATIONS

January 12, 1996

VIA FACSIMILE

Mr. Tom Wright
Administrative Assistant
Office of Representative Ivan M. Ivan
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 392; ANCSA Village Corporation Board Classification
Our File Nos. 74270.1 and 74273.1

Dear Tom:

Per your request, this letter provides you with a summary of HB 392 ("An Act relating to the affirmative vote necessary to amend the articles of incorporation of Native village corporations to authorize the classification of directors"). In a nutshell, if enacted in its current form, HB 392 would allow ANCSA village corporations to amend their articles of incorporation to authorize a classified or staggered term board of directors by a majority vote of the shares represented at a meeting of shareholders.

Under the current law, such an amendment requires a vote of two-thirds of all the outstanding shares entitled to vote. This is a difficult voting percentage for ANCSA village corporations to achieve. Native village corporations generally have a difficult time obtaining even a majority attendance (in person or by proxy) at their shareholder meetings. Obtaining an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the shareholders (which is not simply two-thirds of the shareholders present at a meeting) or even two-thirds attendance (in person or by proxy) at a shareholder meeting, is almost impossible.

There are various advantages to having a classified board of directors. A classified board provides continuity in the management of a corporation because the full board is not replaced every year. Instead, only directors in one of the classes are up for election in any given year. A classified board also provides for better long range planning and policy development because there are always directors from the previous year on the board. In addition, such a scheme always ensures that there are some board members with historical knowledge of prior year corporate activities.

It is also important to emphasize that this legislation does not apply to ANCSA Regional corporations. Furthermore, many of the ANCSA village corporations already have classified boards in place, so this legislation will also not impact them (unless they desire to change their current classification scheme). Under the prior corporations statute (which was replaced by the

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BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON PORTLAND, OREGON SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Mr. Tom Wright
January 12, 1996
Page 2

Alaska Corporations Code effective July 1, 1989), corporations were permitted to provide for a classified board in their bylaws. Savings language enacted in conjunction with the Alaska Corporations Code allowed these bylaw classification schemes to remain intact for ANCSA corporations despite language in the new code requiring corporations to provide for classified boards through their articles of incorporation. See Section 57, ch. 82, SLA 1989. Thus, HB 392 is primarily directed at village corporations who did not have classified boards in place on July 1, 1989, but now desire to implement such a scheme.

I should also emphasize that there is a precedent for allowing this lower voting percentage. Under the Alaska Corporations Code, corporations are authorized to eliminate or limit director personal liability (except in certain instances) to the corporation and/or shareholders for monetary damages by way of their articles of incorporation. See AS 10.06.210(1)(N). For corporations in effect prior to July 1, 1989, the necessary voting percentage for such an amendment to the articles is two-thirds of all the shares entitled to vote. However, the Legislature made an exception to this requirement for ANCSA corporations by providing that such an amendment to the articles of incorporation could be adopted by the affirmative vote of the majority of shares represented at a meeting. See Section 10, ch. 166, SLA 1988, as amended by Section 57, ch. 50, SLA 1989. The voting percentage for such an amendment is the same as that proposed in HB 392.

Lastly, as you are aware, this amendment was requested by Napaskiak Incorporated and Swan Lake Corporation, two ANCSA village corporations from the Calista Region. Both corporations have submitted classified board amendments to their shareholders at the last two annual shareholder meetings. Although the amendment was supported by a majority of shares represented at each meeting, neither corporation was able to obtain a two-thirds affirmative vote in favor of the amendment. If the proposed legislation is enacted, both corporations will most likely adopt a classified board amendment at their next annual shareholder meeting.

Please let me know if you need additional information. I appreciate all the time and effort you have provided in conjunction with this proposed legislation.

Very truly yours,

FOSTER PEPPER & SHEFELMAN



Glen Price

cc: Steven Maxie, Jr., Napaskiak Incorporated
Aurelia Brown, Swan Lake Corporation
Matthew Nicolai, Calista Corporation
Sue Gamache, Calista Corporation
Julie Kitka, Alaska Federation of Natives
Michael Monagle, Division of Banking, Securities and Corporations

Sec. 10.06.455. CLASSIFICATION OF DIRECTORS.

(a) If the board consists of three or more members, the articles of incorporation may provide that instead of electing all the directors annually the directors be divided into either two or three classes, each class to be as nearly equal in number as possible, with the term of office of directors of the first class to expire at the first annual meeting of shareholders after their election, that of the second class to expire at the second annual meeting after their election, and that of the third class, if any, to expire at the third annual meeting after their election. At each annual meeting after the classification the number of directors equal to the number of the class whose term expires at the time of the meeting shall be elected to hold office until the second succeeding annual meeting if there are two classes, or until the third succeeding annual meeting if there are three classes. A classification of directors is not effective before the first annual meeting of shareholders.

(b) Unless cumulative voting rights under AS 10.06.420(d) have been eliminated by the articles of incorporation, an amendment of the articles that would establish or require classification of the board under (a) of this section may not be adopted if the votes cast against the amendment would be sufficient to elect a director if voted cumulatively at an election of the entire board.

History -

(sec. 1 ch 166 SLA 1988; am sec. 1 ch 131 SLA 1990)

Cross References -

For applicability of section to certain existing corporations, see sec. 7, ch. 82, SLA 1989 in the Temporary and Special Acts or the editor's note at AS 10.06.453.

Amendment Notes -

The 1990 amendment substituted "three or more members" for "nine or more members" in the first sentence of subsection (a).

Sec. 10.06.453. NUMBER AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

(a) The board of directors shall consist of one or more members. The number of directors shall be fixed by, or in the manner provided in, the bylaws, unless the articles fix the number of directors, in which case a change in the number of directors shall be made only by amendment of the articles. If the number of directors is not otherwise set, the number of directors is three.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in AS 10.06.230 and this section, the number of directors may be increased or decreased by amendment of the articles or the bylaws or by action of the board or the shareholders under the specific provisions of an article or a bylaw adopted by approval of the outstanding shares. A change in the number of directors, including by amendment of the articles, is subject to the following limitations:

(1) if the board is authorized by the articles or the bylaws to change the number of directors, whether by amending the bylaws or by taking action under the specific provision of an article or a bylaw adopted by approval of the outstanding shares, the amendment or action shall require the vote of a majority of the entire board;

(2) a decrease in the number of directors may not shorten the term of an incumbent director.

(c) The articles may provide for the election of one or more directors by the holders of the shares of a class or series voting as a class or series.

(d) The names and addresses of the members of the first board may be stated in the articles. The members of the first board hold office until the first annual meeting of shareholders, and until their successors have been elected and qualified.

(e) At the first annual meeting of shareholders and at each subsequent annual meeting the shareholders shall elect directors to hold office until the next succeeding annual meeting, except in the case of the classification of directors as permitted by AS 10.06.455. A director, including a director elected to fill a vacancy, shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which elected and until a successor has been elected and qualified.

History -

(sec. 1 ch 166 SLA 1988; am sec. 35, 36 ch 82 SLA 1989)

Amendment Notes -

The 1989 amendment, effective July 1, 1989, rewrote subsection (a); and in subsection (b), added "Except as otherwise provided in AS 10.06.230 and this section" at the beginning of the subsection, divided the subsection into two sentences, adding "A change in the number of directors, including by amendment of the articles, is" to the beginning of the present second sentence, and made related grammatical changes.

Editors Notes -

Section 57, ch. 82, SLA 1989, provides: "APPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN CORPORATIONS WITH CLASSIFIED DIRECTORS. (a) Notwithstanding AS 10.06.453(e) and 10.06.455, if a corporation is organized under 43 U.S.C. 1601 - 1629e and if the corporation's bylaws, as the bylaws exist immediately before July 1, 1989, contain a provision that complies with former AS 10.05 and provides for a board of directors consisting of three or fewer classes of directors with terms of office extending not longer than the third annual meeting after the directors' election, the corporation may continue to elect directors in the classes and for the terms provided under the bylaws.

"(b) The application of (a) of this section terminates if on or after July 1, 1989, the corporation modifies or eliminates the provisions of the corporation's bylaws on the classification and terms of office of the corporation's directors.

"(c) Notwithstanding AS 10.06.453(e) and 10.06.455, if a corporation is not covered by (a) of this section, if the corporation is organized under former AS 10.05, and if the corporation's bylaws, as the bylaws exist immediately before July 1, 1989, contain a provision that complies with former AS 10.05 and provides for a classified board of directors, the corporation may continue to elect directors in the classes and for the terms provided under the bylaws until July 1, 1994."

Collateral Refs -

18B Am. Jur. 2d, Corporations, sec. 1349, 1363.

19 C.J.S., Corporations, sec. 716 - 720.

Sec. 10.06.504. PROCEDURE TO AMEND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

(a) A corporation shall amend its articles of incorporation in the following manner:

(1) if shares have not been issued, the board shall adopt a resolution setting out the proposed amendment or amendments;

(2) subject to AS 10.06.506, if shares have been issued, an amendment shall be approved by the board and the outstanding shares; approval may be initiated by the shareholders either before or after consideration by the board; if the board adopts a resolution setting out a proposed amendment, the board shall direct that the amendment be submitted to a vote at a meeting of shareholders that may be either the annual or a special meeting; if approval of the outstanding shares is obtained before action by the board, the board shall consider and either approve or reject the amendment at the next regular or special meeting;

(3) unless the articles of incorporation provide otherwise, a corporation's board of directors may adopt one or more of the following amendments to the articles of incorporation without shareholder action:

(A) to delete the names and addresses of the initial directors;

(B) to delete the name and address of the initial registered agent or registered office, if a statement of change is on file with the commissioner; or

(C) to change each issued and unissued authorized share of an outstanding class into a greater number of whole shares if the corporation has only shares of that class outstanding.

(b) A proposed amendment may be contained in restated articles of incorporation that contain

(1) a statement that except for the designated amendment the restated articles correctly set out without change the provisions of the articles being amended; and

(2) a statement that the restated articles together with the designated amendment supersede the original articles and all amendments to the original articles.

(c) Written notice setting out the proposed amendment or amendments or a summary of the changes to be made shall be given to each shareholder of record entitled to vote thereon within the time and in the manner provided in this chapter for the giving of notice of meetings of shareholders. If the amendment is to be considered at an annual meeting, the proposed amendment or summary may be included in the notice of the annual meeting.

History -

(sec. 1 ch 166 SLA 1988)

Editors Notes -

Section 10, ch. 166, SLA 1988, as amended by sec. 57, ch. 50, SLA 1989, provides:

"(a) The requirement of an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote for the adoption of an amendment to the articles of incorporation as provided in former AS 10.05.276 shall remain in force for corporations existing before July 1, 1989.

"(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, an election to be governed by the voting provisions of AS 10.06.504 - 10.06.506, as enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, may be made in the same manner as an amendment to the articles of incorporation is made under those sections. An election under this subsection requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote under former AS 10.05.276(3).

"(c) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, an amendment to the articles of incorporation of a corporation organized under 43 U.S.C. 1601 - 1628 (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) and incorporated under former AS 10.05.005 to add a provision eliminating or limiting the personal

liability of a director to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages under AS 10.06.210(1)(N) may be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares represented at the regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present in person or by proxy."

10/20/00