

HB

296

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHB 296(CRA)
 (H) Publish Date: 3/1/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: DCED
 Title An Act Relating to Mergers & Consolidations BRU Community Assist & Econ Dev. (405)
 of Municipalities _____ Component Community & Business Development
 Sponsor Representative Whitaker
 Requester House Community & Regional Affairs Component No. 2486

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
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						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill has no fiscal impact on this department.

Prepared by: Pat Poland, Director Phone 907-269-4578
 Division Community & Business Development Date/Time 2/28/02 9:53 AM
 Approved by: Deborah B. Sedwick, Commissioner Date 2/28/2002
 Agency Department of Community & Economic Development

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Jim Whitaker
House of Representatives
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Sponsor Statement

HB 296 – Municipal Consolidation

Within Alaska statutes, Title 29 allows municipalities to merge by consolidation or unification. Through the years, many communities have attempted to merge through this process, some successfully, some not so successfully. It is through those efforts that deficiencies in fair voting practices surrounding municipal mergers has come to light.

HB 296 seeks to establish a more fair and timely process in the petition and election of municipal mergers by limiting the time allowed for gathering signatures as well as setting clear requirements for how the outcome of the election is to be determined.

HB 296
Municipal Mergers & Consolidations

Section 1 – Amends AS 29.06.100 (a) to limit the time period in which a petitioner may gather signatures for a petition to consolidate. The new time period will be 365 days prior to filing the petition with the LBC.

This removes the potential for signatures to be gathered over the course of several years, with the possibility that many of the signatures may be of persons who no longer reside within the jurisdiction.

Section 2 – Amends AS 29.06.100 to allow for partial approval of a consolidation question.

This essentially allows a community to “opt out” of a consolidation by voting down the question within its boundaries, without defeating the whole measure if there are other cities supporting consolidation with the borough.

Section 3 – Amends AS 29.06.140(a) to require a majority of the votes in each of the municipalities proposed to be merged or consolidated in order for the question to pass.

This assures that a merger or consolidation will be decided by the majority of the voting residents of each of the communities in the proposal.

Section 4 – Adds to uncodified law an applicability section that prevents the changes in this bill from applying to a current consolidation petition.

April 11, 2002

Senator Robbin Taylor
Judiciary Chair

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Ref: Proposed changes to HB 296

Senator,

Just a brief note to let you know my feeling concerning the proposed changes to House Bill 296. As you know there will be an election in Haines shortly, it's an attempt to consolidate the City and Borough governments. House Bill 296, should it pass with the proposed amendments, would not only delay the vote for consolidation but may very well kill any chance that it may have of passing. The proposed changes to HB 296 would require separate votes of the residents of the City and Borough in order to accomplish consolidation. Currently 12.5% of the Borough residents live outside the City limits. The remaining 87.5% live within the City limits. I believe that it would be a disservice to allow the minority to dictate to the majority. This vote should be borough wide.

Please do not allow this bill to pass with the proposed changes. It could destroy what I believe to be the wishes of the majority for a consolidated government in Haines.

Respectfully,



Gregory N. Goodman

INFORMATION
STATEMENT