

**SB**

**157**

<TARGET><BILL>SB 157</BILL><SUBJECT>SB  
157</SUBJECT><COMM>SCRA28</COMM></TARGET>

## SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT First Committee of Referral

DATE: 2/5/14

FURTHER: RULESS

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2/13/14  
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 2/20/14

Community and Regional Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 157

### SB 157-FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AREAS

"An Act relating to municipal fire protection service area boundary changes."

and recommends:

- be replaced with CS \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  Same Title  New Title
- adopt previous CS \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  Same Title  New Title
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
DPS			X	1

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Egan	X			
	Bishop	X			
	Giessel	X			
	Hoffman	✓			
CHAIR:	Micciche	✓			

# Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Leader

Judiciary Committee

Chairman

In-State Energy Committee

Co-Chair

State Affairs Committee

Joint Armed Services Committee

Legislative Council

Rules Committee



Senator John Coghill

Session Address:  
State Capitol, Room 119  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3719  
Fax (907) 465-3258

Interim Address:  
1292 Sadler Way, Suite 340  
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## MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Peter Micciche, Chairman of Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee

Fr: Senator John Coghill

Da: February 6, 2014

Re: Bill Hearing Request

I am formally requesting a hearing before the Senate Community and Regional Affairs committee, for Senate Bill No. 157 entitled "*An Act relating to municipal fire protection service area boundary changes.*"

  
Senator John Coghill,

Signed February 6, 2014

## SB 157 Municipal Fire Protection Service Areas

SB 157 Version N

Sponsor Statement

Fiscal Note – Zero- DPS-Fire and Life Safety- 2/16/14

Support

Letter – Alaska Fire Chief’s Association 2/17/14

Letter – Alaska Municipal League 2/20/14

Map – Boundary Adjustments – Chena Goldstream

Map – Boundary Adjustments – Crestline

Overview of Fairbanks Fire Stations

**SENATE BILL NO. 157**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY SENATOR COGHILL**

**Introduced: 2/5/14**

**Referred: Community and Regional Affairs**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to municipal fire protection service area boundary changes."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **\* Section 1.** AS 29.35.450(c) is amended to read:

4 (c) If voters reside within a service area that provides road, fire protection, or  
5 parks and recreation services, abolishment of the service area is subject to approval by  
6 the majority of the voters residing in the service area who vote on the question. A  
7 service area that provides road, fire protection, or parks and recreation services in  
8 which voters reside may not be abolished and replaced by a larger service area unless  
9 that proposal is approved, separately, by a majority of the voters who vote on the  
10 question residing in the existing service area and by a majority of the voters who vote  
11 on the question residing in the area proposed to be included within the new service  
12 area but outside of the existing service area. A service area that provides road, fire  
13 protection, or parks and recreation services in which voters reside may not be altered  
14 or combined with another service area unless that proposal is approved, separately, by  
15 a majority of the voters who vote on the question and who reside in each of the service

1 areas or in the area outside of service areas that is affected by the proposal. This  
 2 subsection does not apply

3 (1) to a proposed change to a service area that provides fire protection  
 4 services that would result in

5 (A) increasing the number of parcels of land in the service area  
 6 or successor service area if the increase is not more than six percent and would  
 7 add not more than 1,000 residents;

8 (B) decreasing the number of parcels of land in the service  
 9 area or successor service area if the owner of the property to be removed  
 10 from the area requests removal and the removal meets criteria adopted by  
 11 ordinance;

12 (C) increasing or decreasing the number of parcels of land  
 13 in the service area or successor service area if the parcel is transferred to a  
 14 service area that provides more accessible fire protection services to the  
 15 transferred parcel;

16 (2) in a second class borough to abolishment of a road service area or  
 17 consolidation of two or more road service areas if

18 (A) taxes have not been levied in the service area for road  
 19 maintenance or construction during the last 12 months and there is no balance  
 20 in any account available to pay for these road services for the service area;

21 (B) during the last 12 months, the service area board has not  
 22 met with a quorum present and in accordance with law; or

23 (C) there are no road maintenance contracts in effect for the  
 24 service area or the existing road maintenance contracts fail to provide for  
 25 minimum road standards required by law that are necessary to protect the  
 26 borough from civil liability;

27 (3) to require approval by the voters residing in a subdivision or parcel  
 28 proposed to be added to a road service area if roads maintained by the service area  
 29 provide the only access to the subdivision or parcel or provide access to the  
 30 subdivision or parcel that is required by the subdivision plat or by other regulation or  
 31 ordinance;

1                   (4) to a change in the boundaries of a road service area to exclude a  
2 subdivision or parcel that does not rely on the use of roads maintained by the service  
3 area for the subdivision's or parcel's only access or for access that is required by the  
4 subdivision plat or by other regulation or ordinance.

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**SB 157: "An Act relating to municipal fire protection service area boundary changes."**

### Sponsor Statement

State law currently allows municipalities, without a vote of residents in a municipal fire service area, to increase the number of parcels in a fire service area if the increase is not more than six percent and would not add more than 1,000 residents. There is no corollary provision allowing municipalities, even with the full consent of the property owner(s), to decrease or transfer a small number of parcels from a fire service area. Instead, an election of the entire service area must be held to remove any parcel or make other minor changes to a fire service area boundary.

Senate Bill 157 would allow a municipality to decrease or transfer, by ordinance, a small number of parcels in a fire service area without holding an election.

In cases where a fire service area is formed or expanded, or where development has not occurred as anticipated, fire response may not originate from the most accessible station. SB 157 would simplify the process to enable fire response from the most proximate fire department. The ability to establish a less cumbersome process will allow municipalities to define more natural service area boundaries, making it easier for emergency responders to determine which parcels to serve. SB 157 also provides municipalities with the flexibility needed to adjust boundaries based on service levels available.

I urge you to support SB 157.

Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 157  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: SB157-DPS-FLS-02-16-14  
Title: FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AREAS  
Sponsor: COGHILL  
Requester: Senate Community and Regional Affairs

Department: Department of Public Safety  
Appropriation: Fire and Life Safety  
Allocation: Fire and Life Safety  
OMB Component Number: 2883

**Expenditures/Revenues**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None								
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

<b>Change in Revenues</b>								
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**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost:** 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:**

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By:	Kelly Nicoletto, State Fire Marshal	Phone:	(907)269-5491
Division:	Fire and Life Safety	Date:	02/16/2014 12:10 PM
Approved By:	Gary Folger, Commissioner	Date:	02/16/14
Agency:	Department of Public Safety		

**FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS**

**STATE OF ALASKA  
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO.** SB 157

**Analysis**

This bill amends AS 29.35.450(c) relating to changes to a municipal service area that provides fire protection services.

Passage of this bill would have no fiscal impact to the Division of Fire and Life Safety or the Department of Public Safety.



## ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

2358 Bradway Road, North Pole, Alaska 99705

Phone: (907) 488-3400

FAX: (907) 488-6118

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February 17, 2014

The Honorable Peter Micciche, Chair  
Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee  
State Capitol, Room 125  
Juneau, AK 99801

Reference: SB 157 "An Act relating to municipal fire protection service area boundary changes."

Dear Senator Micciche,

The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association supports and urges passage of SB 157 "An Act relating to municipal fire protection service area boundary changes."

Several areas of the State including the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough as well as other areas of the State, that have adjoining fire service areas, have seen residential enclaves developed after the fire service areas boundaries were established. These enclaves in some cases force the fire department responsible for the enclave to leave their service area and in some cases travel through one or more neighboring fire service areas, past closer fire stations, to provide fire and emergency medical services in the event of a 911 call.

To rectify this situation under current State Statues it requires several votes of both of the affected fire service areas which comes at great expense and effort. SB 157 allows the a Borough to administratively transfer fire protection from one fire service area to another closer and more appropriate fire service area by meeting certain criteria adopted by local ordinance.

The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association supports SB 157 "An Act relating to municipal fire protection service area boundary changes." This bill would allow the closest and most appropriate fire department to respond in an emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Tucker", written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Tucker, Fire Chief  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Alaska Fire Chiefs Association  
Legislative Committee Chair  
jtucker@northstarfire.org



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February 20, 2014

Honorable Senator Peter Micciche,  
Senate Community & Regional Affairs  
Butrovich Room 205  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: SB 157

Dear Senator Micciche,

The Alaska Municipal League has spoken to the Fairbanks North Star Borough with regards to SB 157. They have stated that they have needed help pertaining to boundary changes for fire districts and this is a tool they have requested in order to achieve their goals.

We thank you for paying attention to the needs of municipalities in their goals to become more efficient and effective. To that end, the Alaska Municipal League offers full support for SB157.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman  
Executive Director

# Boundary Adjustments

Steese Sta 1 to 1628 Crestline  
Dr 3.4 Miles or 8 min drive time

CGFR Sta 3 to 1628 Crestline  
Dr 8.4 Miles or 12 min drive time

## Legend



Fire



Fire Stations

CGFR2\_Route

SteeseRoute

Proposed Change

### FIRE SERVICE AREA

CHENA GOLDSTREAM

STEESE

UNIVERSITY

No Fire Service



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Date: 2/10/2014 Author: VW

Chena-Goldstream  
Sta. 3



CHENA  
GOLDSTREAM

Steese VFD  
Sta. 3



No Fire  
Service

STEESE

Steese VFD  
Sta. 1



UNIVERSITY

# Legend

## FIRE SERVICE AREAS

- CHENA GOLDSTREAM
- ESTER
- UNIVERSITY



Fire



Fire Stations

EVFD Route

Chena-Goldstream Route

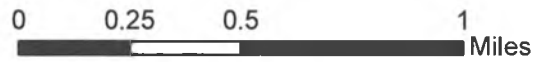
Proposed Change



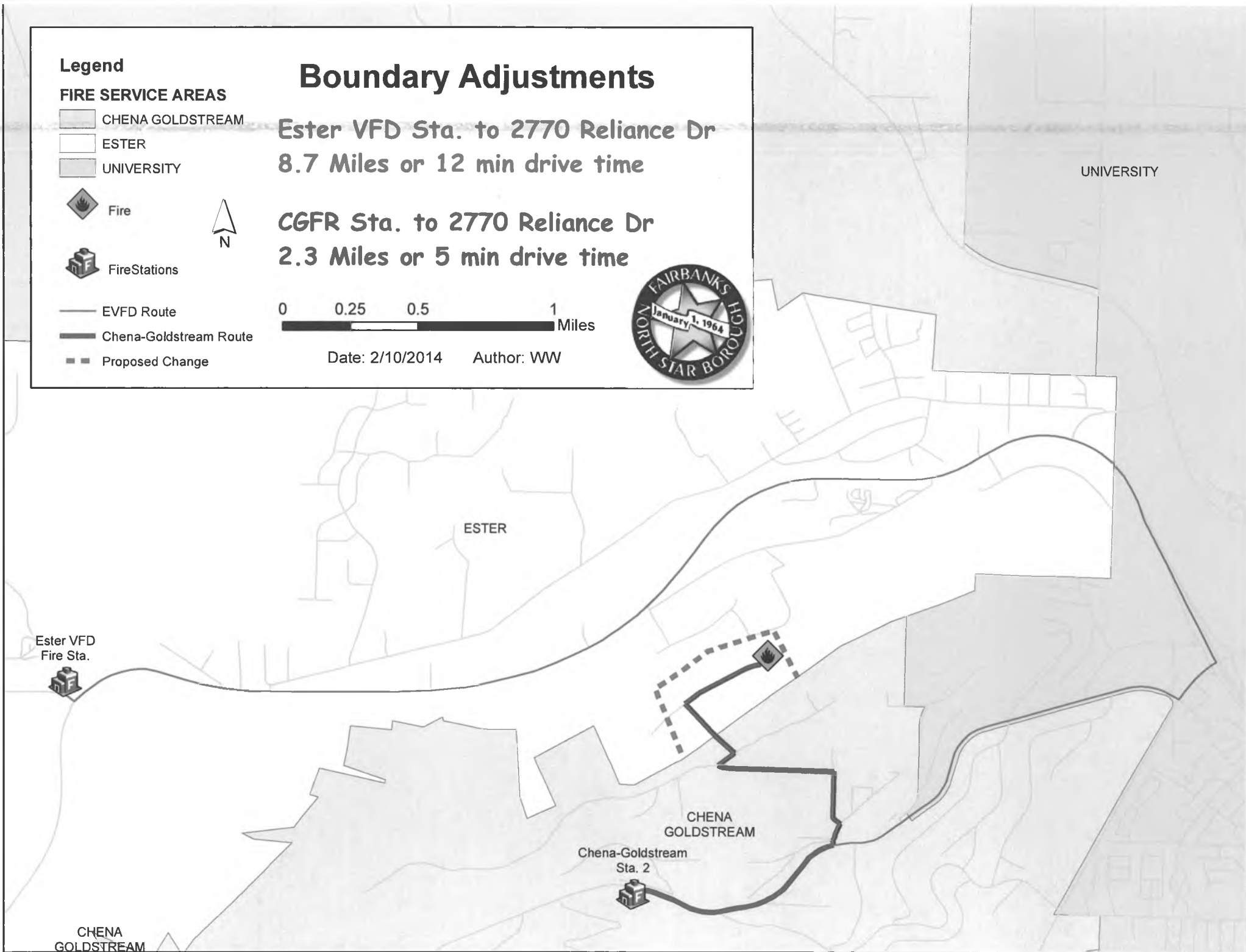
# Boundary Adjustments

Ester VFD Sta. to 2770 Reliance Dr  
8.7 Miles or 12 min drive time

CGFR Sta. to 2770 Reliance Dr  
2.3 Miles or 5 min drive time



Date: 2/10/2014 Author: WW



# FIRE SERVICE AREAS

Legislative Change Needed to alter boundaries!

- Process is cumbersome
- Development has not necessarily occurred as anticipated when service areas created
- Fire department response does not necessarily originate from closest station
  - Flexibility needed to adjust boundaries based on service levels available.

