

**HB**

**107**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 107</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
107</SUBJECT><COMM>SEDC29</COMM></TARGET>

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/15/15

FURTHER:

Rules

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE:

3/2/16

**Education Committee** considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 107(EDC) am

HB 107-BD OF REGENTS REGIONAL RESIDENCY QUALIF.

"An Act relating to the composition of the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska."

and recommends:

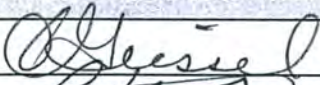

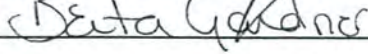

- be replaced with SCS \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  Same Title  Technical Title Change  
 New Title/SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_
- adopt previous SCS \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  Same Title  Technical Title Change  
 New Title/SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

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

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
UA			✓	2

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
	Giessel	✓			
	Huggins	✓			
	Gardner			X	
CHAIR: 	Dushkany	✓			

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2016 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 107  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB107-UA-SYSBRA-3-1-16  
Title: BD OF REGENTS REGIONAL RESIDENCY  
QUALIF.  
Sponsor: GATTIS  
Requester: Senate Education

Department: University of Alaska  
Appropriation: University of Alaska  
Allocation: Budget Reductions/Additions - Systemwide  
OMB Component Number: 1296

**Expenditures/Revenues**

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

	FY2017 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2017 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2017</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>

**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>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

<b>Change in Revenues</b>							
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**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2016) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2017) 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?  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

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

This fiscal note has been updated from previous versions to reflect second legislative session.

Prepared By: <u>Michelle Rizk</u>	Phone: <u>(907)450-8187</u>
Division: <u>University of Alaska</u>	Date: <u>02/26/2016 05:00 PM</u>
Approved By: <u>Michelle Rizk</u>	Date: <u>02/26/16</u>
Agency: <u>University of Alaska</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB107

**Analysis**

Passage of this bill in itself would not have a fiscal impact on the University of Alaska.



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
STATE LEGISLATURE

**Rep. Lynn Gattis**

[Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov)

*House Finance Committee*

Education Finance Subcommittee Chair  
Administration Finance Subcommittee Chair

Sponsor Statement  
University of Alaska Board of Regents

The Territory of Alaska was established in 1912. Five years later the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines were established. To govern these two post-secondary education institutions, the Territorial Legislature established the Board of Trustees consisting of eight members. Almost 103 years later the University of Alaska boasts a massive 32,000 plus students a year, governed by an 11 member Board of Regents, one of whom is a full time student.

Throughout the past century there have been 143 trustees and regents. Of those, 23 have been Student Regents, 15 have been from Juneau, 28 have been from a community located "off the road system", 31 have been from Anchorage and 56 have been from Fairbanks. Excluding Student Regents, only two Regents have been from the Kenai Peninsula and none have been from the Mat-Su Valley.

In 1946, the state's population was 103,000. In 2015, 69 years later, Alaska has exploded to an estimated population of 735,601. Looking at specific regions of Alaska that have experienced notable growth, it is apparent that, for the last 40 years, the Mat-Su Valley has significantly outpaced the other regions of the state, and even the nation, in regard to percentile population growth. The Kenai Peninsula has also had massive population growth in the last 40 years.

A direct correlation in school district expansion and population growth exists in these two regions. The Mat-Su Borough School District is the second largest school district in the state, followed by Fairbanks and then Kenai. Between 2009 and 2013, an average of 12.6% the University's first-time, degree-seeking, Alaskan freshman, were from the Mat-Su and 6.6% from the Kenai Peninsula.

A visit to the Board of Regents website identifies the following mission statement:

"The University of Alaska inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching, research, and public service, emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples."

In accordance with the diversity of the University of Alaska, and the state as a whole, this bill calls for a change to the composition of the of the University's Board of Regents giving a voice to those in the Mat-Su Valley, on the Kenai Peninsula, and to those living "off the road system."

HOUSE DISTRICT 7  
GREATER WASILLA

Interim  
600 E. Railroad Ave  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
Phone: (907) 373-6285  
Fax: (907) 373-6286

Session  
Alaska State Capitol Rm 500  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-4833  
Toll Free: 800-782-1833



THE STATE  
*of* **ALASKA**  
STATE LEGISLATURE

**Rep. Lynn Gattis**

[Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov)

*House Finance Committee*

Education Finance Subcommittee Chair  
Administration Finance Subcommittee Chair

**SECTIONAL ANALYSIS**  
**House Bill 107**  
**Board of Regents Composition**  
**Newest Version 4/15/2015**

\*\*\*Changes highlighted in yellow.

**Section 1:**

AS 14.40.130(a). Repeals and Reenacts  
Composition of the Board of Regents

Defines the Board of Regents by requiring:

1. One resident of Fairbanks North Star Borough
2. One resident of Municipality of Anchorage
3. One resident of Matanuska-Susitna Borough
4. One resident of Kenai Peninsula Borough
5. One resident of City and Borough of Juneau
6. One resident of a community that is not described in (1) through (5) of this subsection and is not connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks;
7. One student regent.
8. Four at large members that are Alaskan Residents.

**Section 2:**

AS 14.40.130. Adds new subsections  
Regents Qualifications and Board Membership

Regents must be a resident of region for at least two years prior to appointment.

A regent will complete their term if they fail to maintain residency in a region.

**Section 3:**

Uncodified law. TRANSITION

Regents currently serving on the board will finish their terms and as vacancies arise the governor shall make appointments that fulfill the residency requirements of this act.

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**Break Down of the University's Board of Regents 1917-2015**

State Location	Total Appointments	Student Appointments*	Regents Not Confirmed	Total Regents
Juneau	22	6	1	15
Anchorage	37	5	1	31
Fairbanks	56	11	1	44
"Off the Road System"	28	0	0	28
Kenai Peninsula**	2	0	0	2
Mat Su***	4	3	1	0
Valdez	2	0	0	2
Healy	1	0	0	1
Mckinley Park	1	0	0	1
Frank Heintzleman****	1	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>125</b>

Five Regents maintained dual residency at some point while serving:			
George A. Lingo	Fairbanks	McKinley Park	This accounts for the discrepancy with the total number of appointments on the Master List and the total Regents Column in this table.
Austin E. Lathrop	Fairbanks	Cordova	
Thomas M. Donahoe*****	Cordova	Anchorage	
Edith Bullock	Kotzebue	Anchorage	
Virginia W. Breeze	Anchorage	Juneau	

\*Two were not confirmed by the legislature.

\*\*One Regent was from Kenai the other from Homer.

\*\*\*Milton D. Snodgrass did reside in the Mat Su Valley for some of his term on the Board of Trustees between 1921-1929 even though he is considered to be from Fairbanks.

\*\*\*\*Frank Heintzleman has no listed residency according to the Board of Regents Master List.

\*\*\*\*\*Died in Office. A total of 10 Regents died while in service. 4 were from Fairbanks, 1 from Anchorage, 2 from Nome, 1 from Juneau, 1 from Ketchikan and T. Donahoe who had residency in both Anchorage and Cordova.

Info is based on the Board of Regents Master List



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Alaska State Capitol Rm 500  
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# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

March 21, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Transition to nine-member Board of Regents  
(CSHB 107( ); Work Order No. 29-LS0465P)

**TO:** Representative Lynn Gattis  
Attn: Andrew Ford

**FROM:** Kate S. Glover *KSG*  
Legislative Counsel

Enclosed is the draft committee substitute you requested reducing the number of regents on the Board of Regents for the University of Alaska to nine members. The "Transition" section of the draft takes a different approach than Mr. Ford and I discussed on the phone. Instead of allowing the governor to determine which regents to remove without cause under AS 14.40.155, the draft provides that the terms of office of all of the regents will expire in February 2016, and the governor must appoint replacements who will serve staggered terms. The draft uses this approach to provide an enforceable process for reducing the size of the board, and to minimize the extent to which the draft would encroach on the governor's, or the Board of Regents' authority.

As this office has explained in previous memos to your office, the legislature has a limited role in the appointment of members to the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska under the Constitution of the State of Alaska. Because all of the regents' terms would expire, the draft does avoid potential problems with the legislature selecting individual regents to remove from the board. It may nonetheless exceed the legislature's authority.

The extent of the governor's authority is also uncertain, however, and is a matter of some debate. An opinion from the state attorney general concludes that the governor does not have the power to remove a regent without cause.<sup>1</sup> In addition, AS 14.40.155 purports to limit the grounds on which the governor may suspend or remove a regent, and requires hearings prior to suspension or dismissal. The approach you requested, which would require the governor to select regents and provide for the immediate expiration of their terms, may require the governor to exceed his authority.

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<sup>1</sup> Alaska Op. Atty Gen., File No. 663-06-0103 (Feb. 2, 2007). The attorney general's opinion cites to conflicting opinions that have been issued by this office and by the general counsel for the University.

Representative Lynn Gattis  
March 21, 2015  
Page 2

A third approach might be to allow the Board of Regents to select the regents whose terms will expire early. This would give the board, instead of the governor or the legislature, the discretion to choose members, and thereby avoid some of the separation of powers problem with removing regents from the board, but it would be unenforceable. If no board members volunteered to give up their terms, it would be difficult to obtain a court order requiring the board to eliminate two regents.

The approach least likely to violate separation of powers principles would be an approach similar to that reflected in the previous version of the bill (29-LS0465\N). The next two regents whose terms expire would simply not be replaced, and the governor would appoint regents who meet the residency requirements of the bill as vacancies arise. According to the website for the Board of Regents, two regents' terms will expire in 2017, and two more in 2019.

Please review the draft carefully and let me know if I can be of further assistance.

KSG:lnd  
15-250.lnd

Enclosure

# LEGAL SERVICES

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
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Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

September 10, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Legislative authority to limit appointment to the University Board of Regents (Work Order No. 28-LS1798)

**TO:** Representative Lynn Gattis  
Attn: Drew Ford

**FROM:** Jean M. Mischel  
Legislative Counsel 

You have asked whether the legislature may limit the governor's appointment of members to the University Board of Regents by requiring statewide representation on the Board of Regents.

The constitutional authority of the legislature to restrict or otherwise control the qualifications of a regent is the subject of considerable debate and raises a possibility of a separation of powers challenge. The legislature has, however, established some qualifications in the past for the student regent and the citizenship requirements contained in AS 14.40.130 and 14.40.150.

Unlike boards and commissions controlled by art. III, sec. 26 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska, nothing in art. VII, sec. 3, which establishes the Board of Regents, provides for legislative control over the qualifications of a regent outside of the confirmation process.

Article VII, sec. 3 provides:

The University of Alaska shall be governed by a board of regents. The regents shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. . . .

The Alaska Supreme Court has in the past interpreted the legislature's confirmation authority very narrowly. When the Supreme Court was faced with the question of the extent of legislative authority over boards and commissions appointed under art. III, sec. 26 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska, the Court found that the confirmation power of the legislature provided in art. III, secs. 25 (principal department heads) and 26,

Representative Lynn Gattis  
September 10, 2014  
Page 2

is merely a limited delegation of the executive appointment power to the legislature and stated:

As to this issue, we think the provisions of Sections 25 and 26 of Article III are clear and unambiguous. Thus, we conclude that Sections 25 and 26 mark the full reach of the delegated, or shared, appointive function to Alaska's legislative branch of government.

*Bradner v. Hammond*, 553 P.2d 1, 7 (Alaska 1976).

The University's status as a "body corporate" does not imply additional legislative powers over the qualifications of University Regents apart from the role of the legislature with respect to all civil officers. Though the University, alone in the constitution, expressly holds corporate status, the Alaska Supreme Court has said that members of other public corporations established by law serve at the pleasure of the governor. *Walker v. Alaska State Mortgage Association*, 416 P.2d 245 (Alaska 1966). The Court stated:

The Association's three board members from the Board of Commissioners of the Alaska Housing Authority are appointed by the governor and serve at his pleasure. Therefore, the governor is empowered to remove any member of the governing board of the Association at his pleasure.

*Id.* at 250 (citations omitted).

I am aware of an informal attorney general opinion issued in 2007 that suggests in a footnote that the legislature has some authority over removal of a regent, without any judicial support for that position.<sup>1</sup> I do not know how a court would view the kind of intrusion into the governor's appointment powers that you propose, but the court may be persuaded by the governor's past support of legislative control over removal of a regent and the previously unchallenged legislative actions governing the appointment process in AS 14.40.150, the citizenship and residency requirements of regents and student regents in AS 14.40.140, and the passage in 2012 of a suspension and removal procedure of regents in AS 14.40.155.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

JMM:lem  
14-275.lem

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<sup>1</sup> 2007 Inf. Op. Att'y. Gen (Feb. 2; 663-06-0103) n. 7.

Board of Regents' Office  
Phone: (907) 450-8010  
Fax: (907) 450-8012  
EMAIL: [ua-bor@alaska.edu](mailto:ua-bor@alaska.edu)  
[www.alaska.edu/bor/](http://www.alaska.edu/bor/)



202 Butrovich Building  
910 Yukon Drive  
P.O. Box 755300  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5300

February 29, 2016

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy  
Chair, Senate Education Committee  
State Capitol Room 11  
Juneau AK, 99801

Via email: [Senator.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov)

RE: CS HB 107 (EDC) am – Composition of the Board of Regents

Dear Senator Dunleavy:

As we understand it, the version of HB 107 passed by the House last year and currently under consideration in the Senate Education Committee would establish a requirement that the governor appoint six regents from specified geographic areas of the state as vacancies occur. One seat would remain a student seat and four other seats would remain at-large appointees. At present all but one (the student seat) of 11 board seats are appointed at large by the governor, subject to Legislative confirmation.

While we understand and appreciate the reasons for the proposed legislation, the board has two significant concerns about this approach: the bill would create geographic constituencies and promote regionalism on the board; and the regional residency requirements may be subject to constitutional challenges that could call board action into question.<sup>1</sup> I'll briefly address these concerns in turn.

The different constituencies served by each of the three separately accredited universities (UAA, UAF, UAS) and their community campuses makes collaboration a challenge in the best of times. When, as now, cutbacks are necessary, regional campus differences of opinion are even more unavoidable, and the need to apportion those cutbacks based on a unified statewide strategic plan even more essential. If the Regents are appointed under a system that inclines them to regard themselves as regional representatives, aligning their perspective with those of the campuses in their region, the ability of the University as a system to serve the people of all Alaska could be significantly degraded.

Collaboration on the board and among these components of the UA System is critical to making the best use of limited resources and serving the public effectively. The Board of Regents has committed itself and tasked the entire UA system to collaborate to create a cost-effective, integrated

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<sup>1</sup> These concerns are reflected in a September 10, 2014, opinion of Legislative Council on this topic (Work Order No. 28- LS1798,) which states in part:

The constitutional authority of the legislature to restrict or otherwise control the qualifications of a regent is the subject of considerable debate and raises a possibility of a separation of Powers challenge. The legislature has, however, established some qualifications in the past for the student regent and the citizenship requirements contained in AS 14.40.130 and 14.40.150.

Unlike boards and commissions controlled by art. III, sec. 26 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska, nothing in art. VII, sec. 3, which establishes the Board of Regents, provides for legislative control over the qualifications of a regent outside of the confirmation process.

state-wide system of higher education that works for students and the public. Because regents have focused on serving the broad interests of the entire state, the board has been united in support of that overarching interest. As a result, the three universities are making important strides in areas including common academic calendars and general education requirements. President Johnsen's Strategic Pathways framework will call for even greater collaboration across the system. We fear that in mandating representation of specific regions, HB 107 will create regionalism on the board that may pose additional barriers to collaboration.

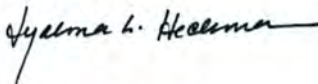
Regional residency requirements also may create constitutional disputes that may leave the board in limbo and unable to take effective action. Article 7, § 3 of Alaska's Constitution requires that the governor's appointments to the Board of Regents be confirmed by the Legislature. However, the constitution does not limit whom the governor may appoint or make the governor's appointment authority subject to law. HB 107 would significantly restrict initial appointments by imposing regional residency requirements. By contrast, prior statutory provisions regarding regent appointments generally provide broad and uncontroversial implementation details consistent with the constitutional provision.

Regional residency requirements may result in disputes and delays in appointments. Delays alone could limit the board's ability to act since by law six votes are required for board action. If based on regional residency requirements, rejection of a governor's appointees may also result in litigation. Either way, the existence of constitutional questions about regional residency requirements will have real world implications for the University. Any uncertainty about the qualifications of appointees or composition of the board could directly interfere with the University's ability to take action requiring board approval. These include among other things selling bonds, hiring a president, conferring degrees, adjusting tuition, adopting budgets and selling or purchasing property.

The board also must authorize any declaration of financial exigency and reduction or discontinuation of academic programs. These are actions that permit the university to reduce faculty and staff without the constraints or notice periods typically required. Third parties dissatisfied with board decisions in such areas will have significant incentive to seize on any uncertainty regarding board authority, and use that uncertainty to delay or disrupt necessary actions. This is particularly problematic when budgetary pressures require aggressive and prompt action.

We very much appreciate your willingness to consider board concerns in this regard. We also look forward to working with the Legislature to ensure that the needs of all areas of the state are considered as the University meets the difficult challenges ahead.

Sincerely,



Jyotsna Heckman  
Chair

cc: Members of the Senate Education Committee

Board of Regents' Office  
Phone: (907) 450-8010  
Fax: (907) 450-8012  
EMAIL: [sybor@alaska.edu](mailto:sybor@alaska.edu)  
[www.alaska.edu/bor/](http://www.alaska.edu/bor/)



202 Butrovich Building  
910 Yukon Drive  
P.O. Box 755300  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5300

March 2, 2016

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy  
Chair, Senate Education Committee  
State Capitol Room 11  
Juneau AK, 99801

Via email: [Senator.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov)

RE: CS HB 107 (EDC) am – Follow-up on Composition of the Board of Regents

Dear Senator Dunleavy:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee at its March 1 hearing on HB 107 - the composition of the Board of Regents. Regent Davies and I very much appreciated the opportunity for dialogue with the committee. Some additional information may be helpful to the committee.

The Board of Regents has no role in selecting Board members. Instead, the governor appoints and the Legislature confirms volunteer board members, who serve eight year terms. A student regent is also appointed, but for a two year term.

Regents terms are staggered so that generally, every two years, two regents' terms expire. However, as a result of the 1975 expansion of Board membership by two, every eight years, four non-student regent terms expire. In 2015, replacements were required for four regents and a student regent whose terms had expired, as well as for Regent Mike Powers, who stepped down. Fortunately, six well qualified Alaskans were nominated and confirmed by the Legislature and have quickly stepped up to the important task of running a complex organization in difficult times for the benefit of all Alaskans.

The difficulty of finding two, and periodically, four, well qualified individuals, who are also willing to commit to an unpaid eight year term, will be compounded by imposing regional requirements. This is an unintended consequence in addition to the others addressed in my letter of February 29.

Delays in appointments that result from difficulty finding willing, well qualified candidates, or from disputes about the constitutionality of geographic restrictions, would have real impact since six votes are required by law for Board action.

We also discussed problems posed by regionalism in trying to run a university for the benefit of all Alaskans. While it is true that regionalism can occur even without geographic representation requirements, the Board has worked hard and successfully over the past two decades to avoid the problems that result from a regional agenda. This legislation would actively promote the sense that regents are expected to advocate for their geographic areas and provide legal backup for that position. This is a concern when the University will be faced with hard choices about what to cut and collaboration will be required as never before.

Senator Mike Dunleavy  
RE: CS HB 107 (EDC) am – Composition of the Board of Regents  
March 2, 2016  
Page 2 of 2

While regionalism is not helpful, diversity of perspectives and breadth of knowledge and experience is critical. The Board is composed of individuals from across the state, many with ties to multiple regions. Members have experience in small and large businesses, government, the nonprofit sector and native organizations. They also reflect gender, age, ethnic and geographic diversity.

It is noteworthy that while Anchorage Community College was established in 1954, Palmer Community College was established in 1959 (becoming MatSu Community College in 1965), and UAA was not established until 1962. The Board has worked diligently over the years to bring higher education to all areas of the state. We appreciate the concerns expressed about all voices being heard and we are fully committed to ensuring that the University is managed for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,



Jyotsna Heckman  
Chair

cc: Senator Huggins, Senator Giessel, Senator Stevens, Senator Gardner



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Deena M. Paramo

*Mission: Mat-Su Borough School District prepares students for success*

March 18, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mat-Su Borough School District supports the passage of HB107.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District has a rich history in education. As the second largest school district in the State, Mat-Su has historically recruited and retained high-quality instructors dating back to the colony days. The Mat-Su Borough currently hosts a land-grant college conducting education, research, and activities around agriculture and geology. Our collective educational heritage and scale warrants a continuation of MSBSD's advisement of the education of Alaskans.

Alaska is a demographically and geographically diverse state that is best served by representatives that reflect diversity. Without the passage of HB 107, regional representation is not systematically regulated and diverse representation is not guaranteed. The population of the Mat-Su Borough is a major participant in the statewide educational system. The people of this region deserve representation on the Board of Regents.

The population and the economic base of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough comprise a large presence in the sustainability of the State of Alaska. Education and how it is conducted at all levels is a foundational factor in the economy and productivity of the State. As the fastest growing part of Alaska, consistent and guaranteed representation from Mat-Su must be a component of the statewide post-secondary system. The University of Alaska's Board of Regents inclusion of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's voice will complement our statewide system and benefit all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deena M. Paramo  
Superintendent

Gene Stone  
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

March 17, 2015

Representative Lynn Gattis  
Chair, Education Finance Subcommittee  
AK State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 500  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Rep. Gattis:

Please accept this letter of support for HB107. In the last 20 plus years, my husband received his Master's Degree from the University Alaska Anchorage (UA), and I have taken classes at UA, served as a guest lecturer and am in my second term on the Mat-Su College Advisory Board.

UA was commissioned to serve the "North and its diverse peoples." The achievement of the University's mission begins with the Board of Regents, which is responsible for UA policy and management through the President. In its "Shaping Alaska's Future" initiative, UA promises that "the diversity of UA faculty, staff and administrators reflects the diversity of Alaska's peoples." This applies to diversity in region as well as culture.

For the last 40 years, Mat-Su's population growth has outpaced other regions of the state. Since 2000, Mat-Su's population has grown from 50,000 to almost 100,000 people and is home to the second largest school district in Alaska. Mat-Su College, an extended college of UAA, has also significantly grown and altered its course offerings to respond to the needs of the business and education sectors of our community. It has created "productive partnerships"—another goal of UA's Shaping Alaska's Future initiative—along the way.

Mat-Su College has evolved from a community college that offered a range of special interest classes for community members to one that serves a younger, degree-seeking student body. It currently enrolls over 2000 students per semester and is a major conduit of students to the UA system. In fact, 12.6% of UA's first-time, degree-seeking Alaska freshman were from the Mat-Su. Mat-Su College has grown its endowment over the years to over half a million dollars and has had competent leadership that worked hard to advance UA's mission in Mat-Su and ensure the College enhanced and grew the UA system.

Nevertheless, since its inception, excluding Student Regents, *not one* Regent has originated from the Mat-Su Borough. This lack of representation is unacceptable and clearly does not meet UA's goal of diversity in its leadership. Despite Mat-Su's importance to the UA system, its population growth and future potential, it has been left out of the University's leadership, strategic discussions and governance decisions. This must be rectified in a way that will strengthen UA's leadership structure and help build a stronger higher education system for AK. HB107 does just that. Thank you for your work in sponsoring and advancing this bill Rep. Gattis. I support HB107 and will advocate for its passage.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Ripley

Sponsor: Assemblymember Doty  
Adopted: 03/03/15

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 15-024**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 107 REGARDING THE COMPOSITION AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA.

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WHEREAS, the Territorial Legislature established the Board of Trustees over 100 years ago; and

WHEREAS, there have been 154 Regents in the past century; and

WHEREAS, only 4 of those Regents have been from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and only 2 from the Kenai Peninsula Borough area; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the Regents have been from Anchorage with 37 and Fairbanks with 56; and

WHEREAS, in the last 40 years the Borough has significantly outpaced the other regions within the State in regards to the percentage of population growth; and

WHEREAS, school district expansion correlates to the population growth within the State, with the Borough having the second largest school district, followed by Fairbanks and Kenai; and

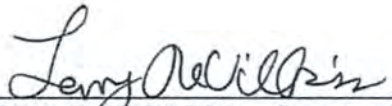
WHEREAS, from 2009 to 2013 an average of 12.6 percent of the University's degree-seeking freshman were from the Borough; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 107 will designate a seat on the Board of Regents for a resident of the Borough; and

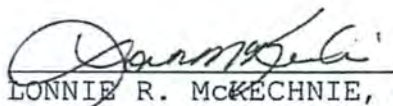
WHEREAS, it is prudent to ensure that the fastest growing area of the State have a voice on the Board of Regents for the University of Alaska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports House Bill 107 and requests that the Alaska State Legislature adopt the changes to the qualifications and residency requirements for the Board of Regents for the University of Alaska.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 3 day of March, 2015.

  
LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Sykes, Beck, Colligan, Mayfield, Doty, and Halter