

SCOMM

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Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE
COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY

Co-Chairmen

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Representative Bill Parker

Address all
correspondence to:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AUG.-SEPT.

The Local Government Symposium was highly successful and more than met the expectations and hopes of the Chairmen. Thirty-eight individuals (see enclosed list) participated in the discussions and identified legislative approaches which can be considered in the development of local/regional government in Alaska.

Several distinct avenues for dealing with local government problems were discussed with priority given to the need for regional governmental units in the unorganized borough. A report of the Symposium will be mailed to you prior to the public hearings with a specific outline of the concepts to be discussed at the hearings.

Bethel	Friday, September 28
Hooper Bay	Saturday, September 29
Dillingham	Sunday, September 30
New Stuyahok	Monday, October 1
Kotzebue	Thursday, October 11
Noorvik	Friday, October 12
Fort Yukon	Thursday, October 18
Venetie	Friday, October 19
Glennallen	Saturday, October 27

The schedule provides for a hearing in a rural regional center and in an accompanying village. Airplane reservations will be made for the group from Anchorage, but we would like those travelling from points beyond to arrange for their own connecting flights. Charter flights have been arranged for the village hearings. Accommodations in the smaller villages will probably be in a school, so please bring a sleeping bag.

ITINERARY

Friday, September 28 --- Depart Anchorage 7:20 A.M. Wien, #27
Arrive Wien 8:35 A.M. in Bethel
Public Hearing 7:00 P.M.
Kuskokwim Community College

Saturday, September 29 - Charter to Hooper Bay
Public Hearing

Sunday, September 30 --- Charter from Hooper Bay to Dillingham
Public Hearing

Monday, October 1 ----- Charter to New Stuyahok
Public Hearing

Tuesday, October 2 ----- Charter back to Dillingham
Wien Flight #5; 2:25 P.M. from Dillingham
to Anchorage
Arrive Anchorage 3:30 P.M.

Reservations have been made for the group September 28 to Bethel on Flight #27, Wien; and again for the return flight from Dillingham to Anchorage on October 2. Tickets for those portions of the trip will be available at the Wien counter on September 28. PLEASE BRING YOUR TRAVEL REQUEST BOOKS SO THAT YOU CAN PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS AT THAT TIME.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Enclosed is a packet of general information on each of the communities we will be visiting. Included is:

Bethel, An Alaskan Community Profile
Dillingham, An Alaskan Community Profile
Census material compiled in 1975 on Hooper Bay
Community Project Matrix, Department of Commerce and Economic
Development, March 1979. (See Community Projects Matrix for
Dillingham, Bethel, Bristol Bay Native Association based on
community priority of needs.

Also, the material developed for the Symposium which was mailed to you last month is basic reading for the public hearings.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the staff in Juneau at 465-3712 or 465-3758.



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LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Second Session—Eleventh Legislature

* CREATION OF REGIONAL UNITS

Geographic, regional boundary lines will be developed for the collection of data for planning and programing purposes. The bill will provide for the division of the state's single unorganized borough into unorganized boroughs by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs after public hearings in the areas affected. The Regional Educational Attendance Areas, and/or combinations thereof, will be considered the regional units subject to public hearing modification. The Dept. of C&RA will have a four-month period of time during which to conduct the necessary hearings and to implement the creation of the regional units.

* HOME RULE

Legislation will provide that regional units may incorporate as home rule municipalities without prior incorporation as a first class municipality. The Local Bounday Commission would be involved in determining the acceptability of the regional unit boundaries and the compliance of such boundaries with borough incorporation standards.

In addition, legislation will be introduced which allows for the reclassification of second class boroughs as home rule municipalities without first adopting first class status.

* REGIONAL STRATEGY STUDY FUND

The Regional Strategy Study Fund would provide monies to be used for regional studies which would address economic, social and physical factors present in the regional unit. The studies would also address the feasibility and viability of local government formation. The Fund would be administered by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs which would consider proposals for a study after having been petitioned by a representative segment of the population of the regional unit.

The Department of C&RA will select the proposal which best meets the standards and criteria contained in the legislation. The Study will be conducted during the prescribed time period. Funding for the studies will be determined using the per capita formula contained in the legislation.

* SUPPORT OF AND COORDINATION WITH DIVISION OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

DPDP will develop and conduct a study and assessment of the feasibility of using the regional units established by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs for planning and for the coordination and delivery of services provided by the Federal and State governments. This study will include an overview of capital facilities and colocation of such facilities for efficiency and recommendations on coordination of delivery of services. The Division will report to the Legislature in January, 1981 with its plan for delivery of services taking into consideration the regional unit boundaries.

* REVENUE SHARING

Legislation will provide that the minimum entitlement for organized municipalities be \$25,000 plus cost of living plus per capita entitlements.

* FOUNDATION APPROACH

The feasibility of a foundation approach to delivery of the basic services will be explored.

* FISCAL NOTES RE IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES

Legislation will be introduced which will require that the fiscal impact on municipalities of all bills introduced be determined in a fiscal note.

* MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF STATE LAND

Legislation will be developed which would return platting power to the municipalities.

* ELIMINATION OF THE THIRD CLASS BOROUGH

Legislation would eliminate the third class borough but allow Haines to exist as presently incorporated.

PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING PAGES WERE TREATED
AS A UNIT IN THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.



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MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER, 1979

With the completion of the scheduled public hearings (one additional hearing has been planned for December 15 in Delta Junction--information on this meeting has been mailed under separate cover), the Chairmen have revised proposed Committee legislation based on the testimony presented at the hearings.

A capsule summary of the proposals being considered for introduction during the Second Session is attached for your review. You will note that the substantive change is the elimination of the "elected advisory assemblies" which were discussed during the public hearings. There was a negative reaction to what was seen as "another layer of bureaucracy" and a concern that such bodies might become "institutionalized" rather than functioning as transitional bodies for areas which might eventually become boroughs.

There was strong support indicated at the hearings for the creation of regional boundary lines to be used uniformly by the state and federal governments. In addition, there was a general feeling that the concept of regional government could not rationally be considered for areas which lacked pertinent data information. The Regional Strategy Study Fund would provide the means for collecting such information.

A Final Report with a synopsis of the testimony received at the public hearings is being prepared and will be made available prior to the Second Session of the Legislature.

The Chairmen will be contacting you during the week of December 10 for your comments on the proposals.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

P.S. Chairman Bill is now the proud father of a girl born Dec. 4!



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Monthly Newsletter

May & June

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski and Representative Bill Parker have been working with staff during the past month to develop the framework and direction for the Local Government Study. The enclosed information provides the general background as well as the action plan for the Study.

Good working relationships have been established with the Municipal League, executive branch departmental personnel, and the Legislative Affairs Agency. Components of the Study will be addressed by each.

The major involvement for the Committee members will be attendance at the Local Hearings to be held in the rural areas during late September and October. At that time, the proposals developed at the Symposium and Regional Workshops will be discussed.

The staff is presently concentrating its efforts on:

1. Coordinating and complementing its activities with the Office of Coastal Zone Management to avoid duplication. (See Page 4 for description of DPDP grant proposal.)
2. Developing the list of participants for the Symposium and planning the details of the Symposium.
3. Working on background material to be used for the Symposium and developing graphics.
4. Coordinating the efforts of the interns and directing their involvement in the work program.
5. Researching information related to the subject of the Study.

As the Study progresses, we will communicate with you through a Monthly Report and welcome your comments, thoughts, and perceptions at any time.

The House and Senate staff is sharing office space in the Assembly Apts., Room 100, and can be reached at 465-3712, 465-3758, 465-3759, or by writing to the Local Government Study, Pouch V, Juneau, Alaska 99811.

For your information, the home addresses of the Chairmen are:

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
2957 Sheldon Jackson Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
PHONE: 279-4939

Representative Bill Parker
200 Denali Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
PHONE: 272-4192

Enclosures

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY - ESTIMATED BUDGET

The following estimated budget was approved for the Local Government Study.

(100)	PERSONAL SERVICES		\$ 40.0
	1 1/2 Project Coordinators		
	12 mon., \$3,000 mon., plus		
	10.13 % benefits		
(200)	TRAVEL		18.0
	Committee Transportation (Juneau/ Anch.) Chairmen/Senate & House Community and Regional Affairs Committee plus staff travel		
	15 trips at \$200 = \$3,000		
	Committee per diem - 15 members + staff for individual meetings and conferences		
	3 days each at \$165 = \$2,475		
	Hearing Committee Transportation		
	5 members		
	5 trips at \$400 = \$10,000		
	Committee per diem - 5 meetings		
	2 days each at \$55 = \$2,750		
(300)	CONTRACTUAL		16.0
	Professional Services	\$12,000	
	Postage	500	
	Public Notices	500	
	Telephone	2,000	
	Final Report	1,000	
(400)	COMMODITIES		1.0
	Stationery and Office Supplies	1,000	
			\$ 75.0
	House Community & Regional Affairs Committee share (per Representative Bill Parker's discussion with House Leadership)		\$ 31,600
	Senate share		<u>43,000</u>
			\$ 74,600

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY STAFF

Committee staff includes:

Gene Walsh, Administrative Assistant, Senate C&RA (full-time)
Marjorie Gorsuch, Administrative Assistant, House C&RA (part-time)
Twyla Hartsock, Secretary (part-time, as needed)

The Joint Local Government Study will be funding the activities of two graduate student interns, who will be hired by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs during June and by the LGS Study through July/August. Their specific work tasks will lend itself to development of papers which will serve as partial fulfillment of degree requirements. They are currently working on specific components of the Study.

Mr. Lamar Cotten, of Eagle River, Alaska, is working toward a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Oregon and Mr. Jim Sanders, originally of Juneau, Alaska, is working on a Masters in Public Administration at the University of Washington.

The interns can be contacted at 225 Cordova, Building B, Anchorage, telephone: 276-1721.



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