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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

PRESS RELEASE
Monday, January 21, 1980

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski (R-Anch.) and Rep. Bill Parker (D-Anch.), Co-Chairmen of the Local Government Study held during the interim by the Joint Senate and House Community and Regional Affairs Committee, have announced the introduction of a legislative package designed to have major impact in the unorganized areas of the state.

The legislation provides for the division of the single unorganized borough into unorganized boroughs consisting of Regional Educational Attendance Areas (REAA's). These regions will provide the framework for planning and programming purposes: regional strategy studies, coordination of services and data collection.

"The present unorganized borough is an 'amorphous mass' and does not provide any basis for the delivery of state services or for fostering of local self determination," Senator Sturgulewski said. "SB 348 (HB 580) lays the foundation for further development of Alaska's system of local self government and decentralization of state decision making, of planning and coordination of services and other activities."

The legislative package was developed from studies and analyses sponsored by the Committee; a Symposium

designed to define issues and problems, and a series of public hearings held throughout rural parts of the state.

According to Rep. Bill Parker, "The final recommendations of the JOint Committee have been greatly affected by what the people had to say in the areas we visited-- Bethel, Delta Junction, Dillingham, Fort Yukon, Glennallen, Hooper Bay, Kotzebue, New Stuyahok, Noorvik and Venetie. Their views are reflected both in the substance of and approach to individual action proposals."

The legislation, introduced in both houses, includes:

*SB 348 (HB 580) Establishes unorganized boroughs and directs state agencies to use such unorganized boroughs and borough boundaries for data collection, program planning and coordination and budgetary information development. It also authorizes adoption of home rule charters by unorganized boroughs if they choose to organize.

*SB 350 (HB 581) Requires that the Division of Policy Development and Planning conduct a study and report back to the legislature no later than January 31, 1981 as to the conformity by state agencies, boards and commissions in using the boundaries established by the Dept. of Community and Regional Affairs under SB 348 (HB 580). It would also require the development and implementation of a master geographical coding system to report on the coordination of delivery of state services using the established boundaries.

*SB 349 (HB 582) Establishes a program of planning assistance for the development of management programs in the unorganized boroughs.

*SB 351 (HB 583) Provides for a base amount of \$25,000 adjusted to include an area cost of living differential to be added to the municipal revenue sharing entitlements.

*SB 354 (HB 584) Eliminates the third class borough while making provision for Haines, the only third class borough in the state, to reclassify by Dec. 31, 1984.

*SB 353 (HB 585) Allows second class boroughs to adopt home rule charters.

*SB 352 (HB 586) Requires a fiscal note for bills affecting a municipality. If enactment of the bill would require an expenditure or appropriation by any municipality, a fiscal note estimating that amount for a three year period would be developed.



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TO: ALL PRESS PEOPLE
FROM: Senator Arliss Sturgulewski/Rep. Bill Parker
DATE: 1/21/80
RE: Senate/House C&RA Legislative Package

On Monday, January 21, a legislative package designed to have major impact in the unorganized areas of Alaska will be introduced in both houses for the Community and Regional Affairs Committee Interim Joint Local Government Study.

You are invited to meet with the Co-Chairmen of the Study, Senator Arliss Sturgulewski and Rep. Bill Parker, today at 1:00 P.M. (Assembly Apts. Room 100) to discuss the legislation.



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Dear Participant:

The Senate and House Joint Local Government Study Committee has introduced a legislative package designed to have major impact in the unorganized areas of the state. As the bills were developed partially on the direction received at the Symposium at which you were a participant, we are especially eager to receive your comments on the final products.

You will notice that the legislative proposals as outlined in the enclosed Final Report differ in some instances from the action program contained in the earlier Report you received following the Symposium. These changes were made after extensive public hearings in rural Alaska and we feel they reflect the opinions voiced by those who attended the hearings.

The bills have been introduced in both houses (SB 348 - SB 354) (HB 580 - HB 586) and copies are available through the Legislative Information Office nearest you.

We look forward to receiving your expert testimony on the legislation when it is teleconferenced in your area. We also will appreciate your written remarks. You may also want to indicate your position on the bills to your representatives as the bills progress through the legislature.

All the Senate Bills have been referred to both Senate C&RA and Senate Finance - Senator John Sackett, Chairman.

All of the House Bills have been referred as follows:

HS C&RA and Finance - Representative Meekins, Chairman
HB 580 Unorganized Boroughs
HB 582 Planning Assistance
HB 583 State Aid to Local Governments

HS C&RA
HB 581 Responsibilities of DPDP
HB 585 Incorporation of Second Class Boroughs
HB 586 Fiscal Notes for Bills affecting a Municipality

HS C&RA and Judiciary - Representative Parr, Chairman
HB 584 Eliminating Third Class Boroughs