



Alaska State Legislature

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Sponsor: Community & Regional Affairs
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Concurrent Resolution 14

Short Title: LEG COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Summary:

- Establishes the Advisory Commission on Local Government consisting of three senators appointed by the senate president, three representatives appointed by the speaker of the house, and three public members appointed jointly by the senate president and speaker.
- Assigns the commission with the following duties:
 - Study the specific reasons for the hardships that communities in Alaska have experienced and develop proposals to continue the evolution of local government.
 - Define the role of state government in the financing of local public services.
 - Recommend specific means by which local governments, when desired, can move towards borough formation.
 - Review findings of previous local government studies and incorporate pertinent information.
 - Develop recommendations for cities within the unorganized borough.
 - Deliver a report of its finding to the legislature by January 15, 2006 together with appropriate legislative proposals.
- Terminates the Advisory Commission February 1, 2006.

Benefits:

- Helps address both short-term and long-term sustainability issues of local communities in the unorganized borough.

Background:

- The Constitution of the State of Alaska provides that the Alaska State Legislature serves as the assembly for the unorganized borough. The legislature exercises that responsibility to support the future economic stability of Alaska. The rural economy of the state is a significant contributor to urban economics, but in the past few years many local communities have either shut down, entered deeply into debt, or ceased providing basic local services as a result of lower local revenue. The Advisory Commission will help ensure an adequate needs assessment to craft appropriate legislative solutions.