



# Alaska State Legislature

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**Sponsor:** Senator Gary Wilken  
**Current Version:** SCR 12  
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## Fact Sheet for: Senate Concurrent Resolution 12

**Short Title:** Unorganized Boroughs/Incorporation

### Summary:

- Requests the Local Boundary Commission to evaluate borough incorporation for four areas of the state: Upper Tanana Basin Model Borough, Copper River Basin Model Borough, Glacier Bay Model Borough and Chatham Region Model Borough.
- Acknowledges that these four areas were identified in the Local Boundary Commission February 2003 report entitled *Unorganized Areas of Alaska that meet Borough Incorporation Standards*, and most likely meet the existing standards for borough incorporation.
- Provides for a lengthy, public involvement process in which area residents have an opportunity to offer suggestions on how their local borough, if formed, should be structured.

### Benefits:

- Sets in motion an arms-length review to determine whether four areas of the state have the necessary resources to help operate and support their local schools.
- Provides tax equity among Alaskans who have the financial ability to help support their neighborhood schools.
- Strengthens the public K-12 education system by increasing local involvement and financial support.

### Background:

The State of Alaska requires organized boroughs and home rule and first class cities within the unorganized borough to operate and help fund their local public school system, while citizens residing in unorganized Alaska have no such requirement, even if the area has the financial resources necessary to help. In FY05 residents living in organized Alaska will pay \$171.1 million to support their local schools before receiving any state financial support. At the same time, 19 Regional Educational Attendance Areas will receive 100 percent state support, including four REAA school districts that have been identified as having the necessary financial wealth to help support their local schools. The recommended incorporations would be adopted unless the legislature disapproves them within 45 days after they are submitted.