



**26<sup>th</sup> ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
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SENATOR GENE THERRIAULT, MINORITY LEADER  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 427, 465-4797 (FAX 465-3884)

SENATOR CON BUNDE  
SENATOR FRED DYSON  
SENATOR TOM WAGONER

**Fact Sheet for : CSSB 48 (CRA)**  
**Sponsor: Senator Gene Therriault**

**Contact: Ernest Prax, 465-4797**

**Short Title:** Meetings of Road Service Area Boards

**Summary:**

- CSSB 48 (CRA) expands SB 48's original exemption of road service areas from the Alaska's open meetings act (AS 44.62.310-312) to now include all municipal boards, committees, commissions, and other similar bodies meeting solely for the purpose to conduct administrative or managerial business.
- Establishes a uniform definition of "meeting" under AS 44.62.310(h)(2) for both policy setting and advisory government bodies.

**Benefits:**

- Grants municipal bodies the legal authority to efficiently carry out in a timely manner such administrative duties as responding quickly to unforeseen road conditions that may cause damage to a road system and subsequent danger.
- Preserves the spirit of an informed and involved citizenry when formulating local public policy. Municipal bodies will still be required to schedule and hold public meetings when discussing policy issues such as contract negotiations and local tax rates.

**Background:**

- Established under Article X Section 5 of the Alaska State Constitution and AS 29.35.450-490, municipal service areas districts provide essential road maintenance, fire protection, and park and recreation services. In keeping with America's federalist foundations, service districts promote local governance through residents joining together and taking responsibility for providing basic community services.
- AS 44.62.310-312 limits a road service area's ability to efficiently respond to road conditions caused by adverse weather. Unless a public meeting is first scheduled and held, board members cannot discuss and act upon time sensitive issues.
- Under AS 44.62.310(h)(2), meeting requirements for advisory bodies are more stringent than those for policy setting bodies. CSSB 48 (CRA) places the same open meetings requirements on advisory bodies as are on government agencies authorized to establish public policy.