

Senators Sackett, Miller Introduce Bill

Senators John Sackett, R-Galena and Terry Miller, R-Fairbanks, filed a bill appropriating \$150,000 to assist rural villages in obtaining electricity from State Operated Schools.

The funding would be handled by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

In filing the bill, Senator Sackett stated that "While all state-owned schools have an excessive amount of surplus electricity from their power generations, residents in some villages must use candles and kerosene lamps. There is total inequity in such a situation when all people in a village could have electricity to light their homes.

"If the State would assist the villages by giving them technical assistance and purchase of needed wiring, the residents would purchase the electricity at rates comparable to what other Alaskans now pay.

"The assistance by the State would give an opportunity for Alaskans to enjoy a better and easier life where today there exists no alternatives.

"Through passage of this legislation, the legislature could do more to help rural Alaskans than all the construction and public works projects com-

bined," Sackett said.

The State presently operates 126 schools in rural Alaska.