

Rep. Al Adams of Kotzebue files for State Senate seat

State Rep. Al Adams, D-Kotzebue, last week filed for the State Senate seat currently held by Sen. Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue.

Hensley was appointed to the seat by Gov. Steve Cowper last year when former Sen. Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue, was unable to return to Juneau due to poor health.

Adams, a four-term House member, has chaired the powerful House Finance Committee for the last seven years, longer than any previous House Finance chairman.

"I'm going to miss the House," Adams said. "On the other hand, with my experience, I think I can make a difference in the State Senate."

Currently, Adams represents House District 22, which encompasses the Northwest Arctic Borough, headquartered in Kotzebue, and the North Slope Borough. As a state senator, Adams would represent District 22 and District 23, which includes Nome and the communities of the Bering Straits and Lower Yukon regions.

"I don't think the people of the district will regard me as a stranger. As chairman of House Finance for the past seven years, I have had the opportunity to meet with many people from the area and am well aware of the district priorities."

Adams said he is looking forward to the campaign and will travel to all the communities in the Senate district this next year. He is the first person to file for the Senate seat.