

Legislative report:

By FRANK FERGUSON

This past week in the Legislature, I introduced Senate Bills 349 and 395.

Senate Bill 349 is "An Act establishing an office of Cottage Industries in the Office of the Governor." The purpose of this Act is to provide venture capital and technical assistance for persons wishing to begin a business to bring Alaska goods and services to market.

Senate Bill 395 "An Act relating to governance of rural education attendance areas." The Legislature finds that responsibility for administration of education in the unorganized areas of the state is best lodged with elected regional school boards. Regional boards are best equipped to determine the educational needs within their respective regions and to determine the manner in which those needs should be met. Accordingly, it is

the policy of the State of Alaska that the discretion of regional boards with respect to program planning and evaluation for schools within their respective jurisdiction be subject to a minimum of constraint from other branches or levels of government.

Senate Bill 148 relating to the Non-Conforming Housing Loan Program passed the Senate last week on a 14-6 vote and has yet to go before becoming effective.

I will be introducing a bill that will establish Legal Service Regional Client Councils which will develop local office priorities, they will hire and fire the supervising attorney. As it now stands local residents, who feel the most impact of the supervising attorneys which is done in Anchorage. Lastly they will educate rural people on the legal process as they are being used in rural Alaska.

Also, I will be introducing legislation on the Municipal Internship Program. This is to provide rural municipal administrators an opportunity to broaden and expand their administrative skills, through an internship program within a hosting municipality. The on the job work experience will provide the participant with new skills and experience while at the same time broadening their scope of awareness

through exposure to new philosophies, ideas and concepts. The program will also provide the participants with insights into their administrative strengths and deficiencies. A supplemental program would be aimed at developing the strengths and improving the difficult areas. The program would produce tangible results primarily for the home municipality, the hosting municipality and State of Alaska.