

# Egan Reluctantly Reapportions Senate; Bush Areas to Lose 5 Seats to Cities

Governor William A. Egan last Friday reluctantly reapportioned the State Senate, in compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court one-man one-vote decision.

In the process, Alaska outlying bush areas lost five seats to the population centers of Anchorage and Fairbanks. Anchorage gained 3, Fairbanks 2.

Northwest Alaska lost two senate seats.

The reapportionment plan becomes effective for the primary and general elections of 1966. All seats in both the state house of representatives and the senate will be filled. Ten seats will be for two-year terms in the senate; the other ten for four-

year terms.

All house seats will be for two-year terms.

Governor Egan made two departures from recommendations of his Advisory Committee on Reapportionment and Redistricting:

1. He did not carve up the immediate Anchorage area into four separate house districts.

2. He ordered that the seven senators from the immediate Anchorage area (District E) be elected at large rather than in four separate districts.

He contended that the Good Friday earthquake had wrought population changes, not reflected in the 1960 census, which most probably

would make districting the Anchorage area unfair.

In making his reapportionment proclamation, Egan said it "has not been an easy task for me."

"My personal feelings and my duties and obligations coincide.

"Nearly ten years ago at the Constitutional Convention, I was one of those who worked hard and saw to it that the apportionment of the State Senate would take into consideration factors other than just population.

"We considered, among other things, geography, socio-economical needs, the relationships of contiguous areas, and the future possibilities of growth.

"It was my view, as well as a majority of the other delegates, that it was in the public interest to have one house of the legislature apportioned more by area rather than population, to serve as a check and balance on the other. That is still my view.

"However, this is a land ruled by law, not men. The Supreme Court of the United States is our final arbitrator of justice. Our nation's highest court has ruled that each citizen's vote must count as much as another's, and we must abide as closely as possible by that decision.

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# Reapportionment .

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Here are the new senate districts and the initial term of senators from each:

A. Ketchikan, one senator to be elected, for four years.

B. Wrangell-Petersburg & Sitka, one senator to be elected for two years.

C. Juneau & Lynn Canal, one senator for four years.

D. Cordova-Valdez and Palmer-Wasilla, one senator for two years.

E. Anchorage, four seats for four years; Anchorage, three seats for two years.

F. Seward & Kenai, one senator for two years.

G. Kodiak & Aleutian, one senator for four years.

H. Bristol Bay & Yukon-Kuskokwim, one seat for two years.

I. Fairbanks, two seats for two years; Fairbanks, two seats for four years.

J. Barrow-Kobuk & Nome, one seat for four years.

K. Bethel & Wade-Hampton, one seat for two years.