

New law grants land base to 2 northern boroughs

The new Northwest Arctic Borough and the North Slope Borough officially gained the opportunity to select state lands for the local governments Friday when Gov. Steve Cowper signed legislation approving a pair of large land grants.

The new law will allow the Northwest Arctic Borough to select 112,000 acres as a borough land base. The North Slope Borough, which had been pushing for a land grant since 1978, will select about 89,000 acres.

Those witnessing the ceremony in a room at Anchorage International Airport included Mayor George N. Ahmaogak Sr. of the North Slope Borough, and Mayor Chuck Greene

of the Northwest Arctic Borough, which will celebrate its one-year anniversary this summer.

Also on hand were Rep. Al Adams, D-Kotzebue, and Sen. Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue. Both legislators steered the bill through the state House and Senate this sessions.

"These two men ought to be commended," said Cowper before signing the bill. "They worked very hard and very successfully for their districts."
