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Bush increases membership to thirteen

By NELLIE WARD
Juneau Bureau Chief

JUNEAU — The bush caucus organized within the Tenth Alaska Legislature has increased its membership by three bringing

the total to fourteen lawmakers. Caucus Chairman, Senator Frank Ferguson (D-Kotzebue), said that bush Alaska is now covered from Ketchikan to Barrow.

Ferguson announced Friday

the acceptance of Senator Jay Kerttula, D-Palmer; Rep. Terry Gardiner, D-Ketchikan; and Rep. Jim Duncan, D-Juneau to the bush caucus. The membership also voted to accept newly-

appointed Martin Severson, I-Naknek, as a replacement to the seat held by Nels Anderson. Anderson's write-in victory over Joe McGill in November was thrown out by Superior Court

Judge Allen Compton last month, who ruled that election officials in district 16 had illegally written Anderson's name on some ballots. A new

(Continued on Page 16)

Bush Caucus

(Continued from Page 1)

election has been scheduled for March 1. Severson will serve District 16 until the March 1 returns are certified.

According to Ferguson, each member of the caucus has selected an area he will become more knowledgeable about or already are familiar with that deals with rural Alaska and formulate legislation. No legislation has yet been introduced by bush legislators.

Ferguson is enthusiastic about the bush caucus saying

that it includes a good working group which will be beneficial to the rural areas. Ferguson said, "We're concerned about all areas of legislation that deal with all rural areas of the state, which is something not really expressed before. Many people think we hide in a dark room and make decisions not good for the state."

Ferguson said that the caucus will be holding back on further additions at the present as it is getting so large it may be unwieldy.