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# Rural Law enforcement and Justice Commission

*Pending US Senate Approval of the  
Omnibus appropriations bill on January  
20, 2004*

Congressional language – As is

## Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission

SEC. 112. (a)(1) None of the funds provided in this Act or hereafter may be used for courts or law enforcement officers for a tribe or village—

(A) in which fewer than 25 Native members live in the village year round; or

(B) that is located within the boundaries of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Matanuska Susitna Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City and Borough of Juneau, the Sitka Borough, or the Ketchikan Borough.

(2)(A) There is established an Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission (hereinafter "Justice Commission"). The United States Attorney General shall appoint the Justice Commission which shall include a Federal Co-chairman, the Attorney General for the State of Alaska or his designee who shall act as the State Co-Chairman, the Commissioner of Public Safety for the State of Alaska, a representative from the Alaska Municipal League, a representative from an organized borough, a representative of the Alaska Federation of Natives, a tribal representative, a representative from a non-profit Native corporation that operates Village Public Safety Officer programs, and a representative from the Alaska Native Justice Center. The chief judge for the Federal District Court for the District of Alaska may also appoint a non-voting representative to provide technical support. The Justice Commission may hire such staff as is necessary to assist with its work.

(B) The Justice Commission shall review Federal, State, local, and tribal jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters in Alaska but outside the Municipality of Anchorage, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the City and Borough of Juneau, the Sitka Borough, and the Ketchikan Borough. It shall make recommendations to Congress and the Alaska State Legislature no later than May 1, 2004, on options which shall include the following—

(i) create a unified law enforcement system, court system, and system of local laws or ordinances for Alaska Native villages and communities of varying sizes including the possibility of first, second, and third class villages with different powers;

(ii) meet the law enforcement and judicial personnel needs in rural Alaska including the

possible use of cross deputization in a way that maximizes the existing resources of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments;

(iii) address the needs to regulate alcoholic beverages including the prohibition of the sale, importation, use, or possession of alcoholic beverages and to provide restorative justice for persons who violate such laws including treatment; and

(iv) address the problem of domestic violence and child abuse including treatment options and restorative justice.