

Palin emails to be available outside Juneau

Sen. Dennis Egan steps in to head off capital move talk

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By Pat Forgey

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Gov. Sean Parnell is backing off plans to only make the Sarah Palin email release available to those in Juneau by paying photocopying and printing charges.

The change in policy came after Sen. Dennis Egan, D-Juneau, got involved, prompted by calls for moving the capital to Anchorage from the Anchorage Daily News editorial page Monday and Anchorage activist Andree McLeod in the Juneau Empire on Friday.

“To insist that any citizen must go to Juneau to review state records is a slap in the face. It shows contempt for the public and raises troubling questions about why the governor’s office is choosing to do so,” the state’s largest paper wrote.

The paper called that position “A bad joke and a good argument for moving the capital.”

That got the attention of Juneau residents.

“Alaskans expect government to deliver public information in a timely and effective manner,” Egan said, and

Parnell spokeswoman Sharon Leighow said sets of the documents would now be provided to Egan, and to Republican and Democratic legislators in Anchorage, who also sought them.

They will be delivered to legislative offices, and it will be up to legislators to make them available to the public.

“They won’t be made public in the governor’s office,” Leighow said.

The governor’s office will provide copies of the records, which number 24,199 pages after the electronic documents are scanned, to legislators in Anchorage and Juneau, Leighow said.

A few thousand more pages are being withheld under various exemptions to the Alaska Public Records Act,

but the records will begin to be released publicly Friday, and not everyone who has requested them will get them. It is not sure how long it will take to get the legislative copies.