



SENATOR JESSE KIEHL

## **SB 258 Fair Software Licensing**

### **Sponsor Statement**

Alaska relies on software applications every day to deliver services, manage records, and keep government functioning at all levels. Alaskans get a lower cost of government from the efficiencies modern software provides.

In recent years some software licensing contracts have sprouted terms requiring government units to move the software to the cloud, instead of on their own servers. That sort of decision belongs at the local level, where budgets and security get considered. Even more concerning, some contracts forbid using specific competitors' cloud computers, driving government to 'captive' cloud options. These restrictions limit flexibility, increase cost, and reduce the state's ability to choose the most practical and cost-effective technologies to serve the public.

SB 258 fixes the problem by ensuring software licensing contracts can't restrict where the state or its political subdivisions run their applications. The bill preserves the ability to choose whether to use cloud services, and if so, which ones best meet operational and budget needs. By protecting Alaska governments from software vendor lock-in, Alaska will promote fiscal responsibility, competition, and productivity.

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