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## **House Bill 182** Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to abandoned vehicles."

House Bill 182 is an act which will help eliminate the ever-growing problem the State of Alaska, municipalities, Public Safety Departments, and the Department of Transportation, deal with every day on our state highways.

Each year, hundreds of cars litter the sides of our highways for several reasons. Some are there because they have had an accident, and the owner has not had their vehicle removed yet. Others are there because they are broken down and the car is not worth towing, in the mind of the owner. Some are abandoned because they were victims of a term called "joy riding", where a stolen vehicle is taken for a ride, and the owner has not come to get it.

After a week or two, or sometimes even a shorter length of time goes by, the vehicle is then vandalized. Parts start to become missing, like the wheels and taillights or pieces of trim. Often, these vehicles are set on fire.

The result is often after many months they are hauled away at the government's expense. That expense is usually larger than a simple tow bill. The owner must be tracked down: DMV must search records, phone calls are made to the last known owner, and multiple letters are sent to the owner, etc. Some owners claim no responsibility as it was stolen (not always reported as such until they are contacted by the State Troopers).

HB 182 puts a quicker end to the unsightliness and requires the last owner to pay for the costs to the state or municipality after the vehicle has been removed from the roadside.

HB 182 would not add any additional cost to the State of Alaska as the same process to contact the owner is used. This legislation instead requires reimbursement funding to the state, something that isn't presently required and often never paid.

I am pleased to offer this legislation and believe it a necessity in keeping our great state a clean place to live.

If you have additional questions, please contact Ryan McKee in my office at 907-465-4859.