



Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Serving Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright & Badger Road

Senate Bill 18 Sponsor Statement

“An Act relating to electronic identification cards; relating to electronic drivers’ licenses and permits; relating to motor vehicle liability insurance; and providing for an effective date.”

Smartphones and other smart mobile electronic devices have become an indispensable part of modern life. These devices provide convenient communication, information and entertainment such that there is almost no aspect of life that smartphones have not made easier.

SB 18 seeks to leverage these modern communications technologies to enhance convenience for Alaskans and allow them to use electronic versions of their drivers licenses, drivers permits or state identification cards. Alaskans are currently required to carry physical drivers licenses and permits when driving or operating a vehicle. This bill will allow them to use applications like Apple Wallet for iPhones to show their credentials when requested by peace officers including local law enforcement or Department of Public Safety (DPS) personnel.

On top of increasing convenience, this bill protects the licensee and user of the smart device as well as local law enforcement and DPS. It protects the privacy of the licensee and smart device user by prohibiting representatives of DPS or local law enforcement from searching, viewing or accessing other contents of the mobile electronic device. It protects DPS and local law enforcement from liability resulting from damage to the electronic device, except for intentional misconduct.

Alaskans have been allowed to use their smartphones to display proof of insurance since 2013 and use their smartphones to display fishing and hunting licenses since 2018. Therefore, it is logical that Alaskans be allowed to use their smartphones to display electronic versions of their drivers licenses, drivers permits and state identification cards. I respectfully urge your support of SB 18 Please reach out to my office with any questions.

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