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Sponsor Statement

HB 188- "An Act relating to animal adoption and foster care records."

When an animal is impounded in Alaska by animal control or shelters, it may become available for adoption or fostering following the appropriate holding period. The records related to animal adoption and foster care often include personal details such as names, phone numbers, or physical addresses of individuals involved in the process. While several local governments have exemptions for animal adoption records outlined in their municipal codes, not all municipalities offer the same level of public record exemptions for animal adoption or foster care. There has been a recent push to establish statewide privacy protections for individuals adopting or fostering animals from shelters. HB 188 aims to achieve this by exempting the personal identifying information of adopters or foster caregivers from public record requests under Alaska's Public Records Act.