

Alaska State Legislature

Interim:
1500 W. Benson Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 269-0199 Phone
(907) 269-0197 Fax



Session:
State Capitol Building, Room 103
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4945 Phone
(907) 465-3476 Fax

Senator Kevin Meyer

Senate District M

CSSB 205(L&C):Telecommunications Regulation/Exemptions

April 5, 2018

The telecommunication statutes (AS 42.05) are in need of revision due to rapid changes in technology and in FCC regulations, which render portions of the existing statutes obsolete and/or inefficient in the modern telecommunications world.

All of Alaska's telecommunications providers through the Alaska Telecom Association have worked together to offer these suggested changes. In doing so, they have strived to maintain important consumer protections, appropriate Regulatory Commission of Alaska jurisdiction, and consistency with FCC regulations while at the same time allowing for greater flexibility to more rapidly take advantage of new technology.

Some existing RCA regulations are over 25 years old and are largely obsolete today. Customer preferences continue to grow for broadband and mobile service while the demand for landlines declines. In competitive markets, carrier of last resort requirements and alternative operator services are no longer necessary. Placing service providers on a more level playing field will encourage deployment of advanced technologies and more efficient network design.

In addition to the above simplification and modernizing of existing statutes, the Regulatory Cost Charge will be assessed and submitted to the RCA by all telecommunications utilities, whereas today, it is not being paid by utilities that municipally owned or are cooperatives. All members of the Alaska Telecom Association are in agreement with this change.