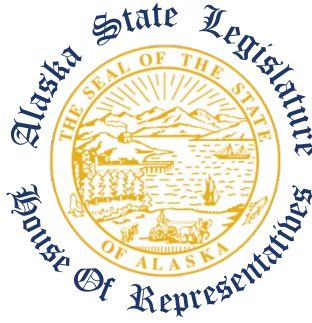


**REPRESENTATIVE**  
**GEORGE RAUSCHER**  
House District 29

Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov



Session  
State Capital  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Tel: 907 465-4859  
Toll Free: 888-465-4859

Interim  
600 E Railroad Ave. Suite 1  
Wasilla, Alaska 99654  
(907) 373-6287

## **House Bill 159**

### **Sponsor Statement**

*"An Act relating to the removal of unlawful occupants from residential real property; relating to the crimes of trespass, forgery, and deceptive business practices; and amending Rules 82 and 85(a), Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure"*

House Bill 159 gives Alaska homeowners a faster and safer way to reclaim their residential property from individuals unlawfully occupying it. These cases, commonly called squatting, are growing more frequent and complex, often forcing owners into costly and time-consuming court battles.

HB 159 creates a streamlined civil remedy allowing a property owner or agent to request law enforcement assistance in removing an unauthorized occupant under clearly defined conditions. The owner must certify, under penalty of perjury, that the occupant has no lease, ownership interest, or family relationship, and law enforcement must verify eligibility before acting.

To prevent abuse, the bill holds owners liable for wrongful removals and provides strong remedies for occupants who are improperly evicted, including damages and full attorney's fees.

HB 159 also strengthens penalties for criminal trespass, forgery, and deceptive business practices and updates Alaska's civil rules to accelerate eviction proceedings while maintaining fairness for all parties.

Alaskans who lawfully own property should not have to wait months or pay thousands to remove someone with no legal right to be there. HB 159 offers a common-sense solution to protect property rights and public safety.

I urge your support for this important legislation.

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