

Representative Bob Herron

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House District 38

Kuskokwim & Johnson Rivers

Kuskokwim Bay & Nelson Island

Akiachak

Akiak

Atmautluak

Bethel

Cheforknak

Eek

Goodnews Bay

Kasigluk

Kipnuk

Kongiganak

Kwethluk

Kwigillingok

Lower Kalskag

Mekoryuk

Mertarvik

Napakiak

Napaskiak

Newtok

Nightmute

Nunapitchuk

Oscarville

Platinum

Quinhagak

Toksook Bay

Tuluksak

Tununak

Tuntutuliak

Upper Kalskag

Sponsor Statement

CSHB 202 (CRA), Residential Sprinkler Systems

House Bill 202 is in response to a national movement to require fire sprinkler systems in one and two-family dwellings. This legislation would require a more robust public process be followed before sprinklers can be mandated in new home construction.

What HB 202 seeks to avoid is broad mandates without public involvement for home sprinkler systems that will drive up costs for consumers in areas where sprinklers may not necessarily be needed.

The CS for HB 202 (CRA) requires that before a municipality can mandate sprinkler systems in all new construction of residential buildings with one or two dwelling units they must first:

- At least 30 days prior to the first public hearing, publish a summary of the ordinance and notice the time and place of each scheduled public hearing;
- Hold three public hearings within not less than a 60-day period and not more than 180 day period.

This bill realizes there may be cases in Alaska where requiring sprinklers in one and two-family dwellings is necessary. Often, the geography at the location of new builds is such that firefighters cannot make it swiftly to a burning home. In those cases, HB 202 **would not** prohibit sprinkler mandates.

House Bill 202 will continue to allow elected officials in municipalities and cities to explore a mandate on sprinklers.