

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## **REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 14**

### **Sponsor Statement HB 394**

**"An Act relating to the data processing and telecommunications activities of the state; relating to the security of certain data processing records of the executive branch and making the Department of Administration responsible for the security of those records; and making the commissioner of administration the chief information officer."**

"Compatibility", is a word that has become common in technology. It is the challenge of the sharing of any information electronically. The State of Alaska, like other governments depend on electronic communications for the vast majority of the work load. Compatibility becomes an expensive goal when any given entity unilaterally selects the software and standards for electronic data transfer.

House Bill 394 looks to the future of increasing technology. Over the 50 years of Alaska statehood valuable and historical documents have been maintained on paper which is slowly being converted to a digital format. The 'magic' of this information age is the growing insignificance of digital storage, distance, and time compared to warehouses of documents, travel costs and time, and scheduling in convenience.

The goal of HB 394 is to allow for the security, storage, and access of public information. Without HB 394, information is handled very differently in various jurisdictions within the state-- a situation that is costing us extra right now and will cost us much more in the future.

To accomplish this HB 394 assigns the Department of Administration to establish standards related to security, software, archiving, access, and hardware. The task will be one of coordination and consideration of a broad scope of needs so we can improve from where we are today. The Department of Administration is the logical government agency to do this coordination.

HB 394 allows Alaska to make the best of technological innovations that have and will continue to appear. It also looks to the need to protect, and the need to be efficient in storage of public information, some of which is presumably meant to be maintained until the end of time.

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