

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## Session

State Capitol, Rm. 101  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-2435  
Fax: (907) 465-6615

## Interim

716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ste. 540  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 269-0120  
Fax: (907) 269-0122



## Chair

State Affairs Committee

## Co-chair

Joint Armed Services Committee

## Vice Chair

Resources Committee  
Judiciary Committee

## Member

Administrative Regulation Review

Senator\_Bill\_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us

## SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

### **S.B. 138 Protecting Alaskans From Unethical Billing Practices**

### **Fact Sheet**

- According to an investigation by the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, telephone companies have placed more than \$10 billion worth of third-party charges on their customers' landline telephone bills over the past five years.
- Unauthorized third-party charges have been found on bills for residences, small businesses, nonprofits, corporations, government agencies, and educational institutions.
- The unauthorized charges "crammed" on telephone customer's bills are typically between \$10 and \$50. These charges, although relatively minor can quickly amount to significant losses for telephone customers.
- The intent of SB138 is to ensure that authorization for third-party charges and services is clearly obtained prior those charges being included on telephone bills.
- Obvious examples of cramming have been found on bills for deceased persons, the elderly, lines for fire alarms, elevators, and bank safes.
- Committee report shows evidence of third-party vendors operating out of fake offices with presidents who have no knowledge of their "companies."
- California, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and Virginia have all passed laws banning cramming.

