

Alaska State Legislature

Legislative Budget & Audit Committee

Interim:

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Anchorage, Alaska 99501
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Session:

**State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801
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Representative Mike Hawker, Chairman

House Bill 125 Sponsor Statement

Short Title: Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

House Bill 125 transfers administration of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development.

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board was established as a regulatory and quasi-judicial agency for the oversight of the manufacture, barter, possession, and sale of alcoholic beverages in the state.

The Board was originally established in the Department of Revenue for administrative purposes only. Legislation in 2003 moved the Board to the Department of Public Safety. A subcommittee of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee held hearings in Summer 2010 to determine the best Board location for administrative purposes. That subcommittee recommended moving the Board to the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. House Bill 125 has been introduced to implement that recommendation.

Alaska is a "license" state with issuance of licenses by the board to private business. As the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board is primarily a commercial, regulatory agency, it should come under the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, along with all other professional and industry regulatory boards and commissions. House Bill 125 does not restrict or change the enforcement responsibilities of the Board or of the Department of Public Safety.