

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Kyle Johansen House District 1

HB 182 - "An Act relating to distribution of annual reports by state agencies."

Under AS 44.99.200, state agencies are required to produce a published annual report, where "published" means printed on paper. The purpose of publishing the report is to "promote simplicity, low cost, and consistency."

This bill changes the publication requirements for all departments and state agencies, including the University of Alaska and the Alaska Railroad, from a printed document to an electronic format that is posted on the agency's website and is easily accessible to the public.

Most of the statutes that provide for a printed document were written long before the advent of the modern technology that makes the reports accessible online today. The printed publishing of reports costs Alaska taxpayers over \$1.6 million annually. These reports cost \$12-\$25 per copy and are automatically delivered to all 60 legislative offices and many other offices in the government system. The vast majority of these reports go unused as the information is readily accessible in an online format.

Some groups or people in specific areas of the state may not have internet access and Section 44.99.370 of this bill allows for the request of a printed report. Common practice has been to provide individual copies free of charge, but if a large quantity were ordered the appropriate fee is determined under AS 40.25.110.