ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER
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HOUSE BILL 271
SPONSOR STATEMENT

"An Act relating to the state highway system and commercial motor vehicle requirements."

Alaska is always on the move. Be it across town or across the state, transportation is extremely important. For the small business owner nearly everything must be moved from somewhere and that is often done by truck. Today's truck laws were written years ago and have not kept up with technology. Today's roads and today's trucks are safer, more reliable and much easier to drive.

House Bill 271 is written to assist these small business owners who need a truck to move their inventory either from the import site, retailer, or wholesaler to their business or job site. These businesses are not in the trucking business but the state treats them that way.

Currently these smaller vehicles are classified as commercial and must have special license plates, which costs more. In some cases the driver must have a commercial driver's license (CDL) which costs more. In both cases these extra charges constitute a tax and do little to improve safety.

House Bill 271 changes the current statutory descriptions of commercial vehicles. Many newer modern trucks are designed for safety without the extra training required for a CDL. It is unnecessary and burdensome, for example, to require these drivers to have the same medical card as required for a semi driver hauling big loads to across the state. House Bill 271 gives the owners who use the trucks for work part time an opportunity to use them inside the State of Alaska without unnecessary government harassment.