



REPRESENTATIVE MIKE HAWKER

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE ♦ DISTRICT 27

Anchorage ♦ Glen Alps ♦ Rainbow ♦ Indian ♦ Bird ♦ Girdwood

HB 275

Sponsor Statement

Short Title: Electronic Distribution of Reports

House Bill 275 balances the need for public access to agency reports with the cost savings of using modern technology to create and distribute reports. Specifically, the bill mandates that statutorily required reports be distributed electronically and posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice System instead of printed. It also allows municipalities to post certain notices electronically.

At various times, the legislature has directed state agencies to report on a number of subjects and mandates the receipt of an annual report from departments. At the time these mandates were established, printed publication and distribution were the only option. Over the years, millions of dollars have been spent to produce and distribute annual reports alone. In 2011, the cost of producing and distributing reports was 1.6 million dollars.

These reports are already created in an electronic format. With the touch of a key pad, a report can be distributed electronically to multiple websites, individuals and organizations, without incurring any cost. This statutory change would allow agencies to do that.

At the same time, by requiring posting on the existing Alaska Online Public Notice System, the bill will actually increase public access and awareness of these reports. This system is already used by many Alaskans to keep track of various actions that state departments are taking. Having all the reports accessible in one place will allow people to peruse a comprehensive list of what reports are available and access them instantaneously.

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