

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session

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State Affairs Committee

Judiciary Committee

In-State Energy Committee

Joint Armed Services
Committee

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

SB 174: Leases for Legislative Office Spaces

An act relating to the procurement of leases for legislative office spaces.

Sponsor Statement

SB 174 would require a legislative agency to solicit public comment from Alaskans across the state, for no less than 30 days, for sole source procurement of legislative office space that would cost a quarter million dollars or more over the term of the lease.

Current statute allows for the chairperson of the Legislative Council, with permission from the Council, to enter into sole source contractual arrangements. In 2013, at the direction of the chairman of the Council, the legislature entered into a binding contract that called for the remodel and expansion of the legislative office building in Anchorage. The new arrangement led to rent increases from approximately \$56,000 to over \$280,000 per month. The Council had given the Chair the authority to enter a deal at or below, but not above market rate rent.

Requiring public comment will enable Alaskans to review whether spending on legislative office space is responsible.