

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Session: January – April
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Official Business

HB 169 Sponsor Statement

“An Act relating to the authority of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to regulate the production and distribution of telephone directories.”

Currently the Alaska Administrative Code requires RCA oversight for the production and distribution of white page directories. In an effort to modernize Alaska’s regulatory requirements, HB 169 eliminates the regulation and production of telephone directories by the RCA.

White page telephone directories are increasingly incomplete in their listings. They don’t include VOIP or mobile listings. Approximately 40% of landline customers request their numbers to be unlisted, and therefore unpublished. Furthermore, since directories are only distributed on an annual basis, the information provided is obsolete in today’s rapidly changing technological environment.

Consumers have expressed strong opinions about not wanting printed directories and often return those that are delivered. Many customers have expressed outrage about the environmental impacts of producing and distributing paper directories only to have them returned for recycling.

HB 169 allows telecommunication providers to directly meet the wants and needs of their customers without burdensome requirements to distribute increasingly incomplete and obsolete directories. I urge your support of this legislation.