

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE KURT OLSON

- Chair: Labor and Commerce
- Vice Chair: Rules
- Member: Resources, Community & Regional Affairs,
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Session: January – April
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Official Business

Sponsor Statement: House Bill 22

Extension of the Board of Marine Pilots

The State of Alaska requires almost all foreign vessels and vessels over a certain size to take on a marine pilot when they enter or travel in state waters. The requirement of marine pilots is a common historical and current practice worldwide. Pilots' knowledge of the local geography and waterways they are piloting makes them invaluable to the vessels. Pilots are responsible for the safety of those aboard a vessel and for the protection of the marine environment.

The Board of Marine Pilots benefits the public's safety and welfare by licensing and regulating marine pilots. The board provides reasonable assurance that the pilots are competent and qualified to pilot passenger and cargo ships in Alaskan waters.

In accordance with Title 24 and 44 of the Alaska Statutes, Legislative Budget and Audit has reviewed the activities of the Board of Marine Pilots. They have determined that there is a demonstrated public need for the board, and that the board has been operating in an efficient and effective manner.

House Bill 22 extends the termination date of the Board of Marine Pilots to June 30, 2018.