



# REPRESENTATIVE MIKE HAWKER

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE ♦ DISTRICT 28

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

## House Bill 5 Sponsor Statement

When an individual is unable to effectively manage the affairs of their estate, the court may appoint a conservator to protect the individual and their assets. Conservators serve a valuable role by acting as a trustee to a person's property and making decisions regarding the affairs of their estate.

Current statute outlines criteria for who may be a conservator and under what circumstances they may serve as such. This responsibility is limited to certain relatives, thereby excluding other relatives.

House Bill 5 helps families act in their own best interest by allowing an adult related by blood, marriage or adoption to serve as conservator. Expanding the pool of persons who could serve as a conservator will allow greater flexibility and choice for individuals and families needing this service.

House Bill 5 does not change the judicial process for appointing a conservator or weaken the court's authority to act in the "best interest" of the protected person.