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CSSB 165(JUD) Sponsor Statement

DISTRICT OF

Bear Creek

Cooper Landing

Crown Point

Funny River

Hope

Kalifornsky

Kenai

Lowell Point

Mackey Lake

Moose Pass

Nikiski

Primrose

Ridgeway

Salamatof

Seward

Soldotna

Sterling

Senate Bill 165 is the product of an ongoing comprehensive, multiyear modernization process for Title 4, Alaska's statutes that govern the regulation and control of alcoholic beverages in the state. Title 4 is largely unchanged since enactment in 1980. It is widely recognized to be outdated, and ineffectual in carrying out the intent of the statutes, which directly impact Alaska residents, public safety, public health, and the alcoholic beverage industry.

Following a 3-year review and update by stakeholders, SB99 was introduced in April 2015, a large body of work spanning nearly 100 pages. The complexity of the bill and the need for additional stakeholder work to gain consensus on several licensing issues, prompted the ABC Board Title 4 Review Steering Committee in December 2015 to recommend a new, two-track process for Title 4 rewrite -- 1) streamline elements of SB99 into SB 165 that focuses on areas where broad consensus currently exists, particularly those items that impact youth; and, 2) hold the remaining provisions for further refinement and introduction as a second package in 2017.

CSSB 165(JUD) focuses on a discrete set of consensus recommendations which includes ABC Board member Composition and Qualifications (04.16.020); clarifying that minors are allowed to play and work on golf courses that serve alcoholic beverages; establish the offenses of Minor on Licensed Premises (04.16.049) and Minors in Possession or Consuming (04.16.050) to be violations; provides that such violations may not be published on Courtview, nor be cause for a driver's license cancellation or revocation; encourages alcohol education or treatment upon conviction of minor consuming and possession offenses; and requires background checks for persons applying to operate marijuana establishments, as is currently required of alcohol licensees.

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