



# 30<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature

## House Transportation Committee

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### **House Bill 131 Sponsor Statement**

*"An Act relating to relocation assistance for federally assisted public construction and improvement projects and programs; and providing for an effective date."*

House Bill 131 would allow an increase of the maximum relocation benefits available to a person or a business displaced by federally assisted projects and programs. In 2012, Congress passed the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, aka MAP-21 Act which, among other things, increased the maximum relocation benefits available under 42 U.S.C. 4601 – 4655 (Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970), which are payable to a person or business displaced by a federally assisted project or program. The bill proposes to provide these increased federal benefits to Alaskans and Alaska businesses.

Further, the bill would provide that a displaced person or business in the state would be retroactively eligible for an increased federal maximum benefit for relocation expenses incurred after October 1, 2014, which is when the increased maximum federal benefit became available.

In summary, HB131 is a federal compliance bill which assures Alaskans that their legislature wants them to be compensated the same as a resident of any other state. It is important to compensate Alaskans fairly in those circumstances when the design of a federally-funded highway, bridge, or facilities project requires that the State must acquire private property and reimburse individuals for their relocations expenses.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.

*If you have any questions please contact House Transportation Committee Aide,  
Laura Stidolph (907) 465-4976.*