

31st Alaska State Legislature

Rules Committee

Chairman

State Affairs Committee

Vice-Chair

Resources Committee

Vice-Chair

Health and Social Services

Committee

Vice-Chair

Select Committee on Legislative

Ethics

Legislative Council



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SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 73 (SB 73) Relating to Succession of the Offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor

SB 73 changes the current succession model for the governor to simplify and expand the current “chain of command”.

The bill streamlines the confirmation process and creates a longer line of succession to better prepare the executive branch for a cataclysmic emergency.

Today, the line of succession is unprepared for a; in the current environment, an earthquake or plane crash could alter the Alaskan political climate in a moment’s notice.

This bill’s longer line of succession goes through eight of the fourteen commissioners so Alaska can always have a backup of talented individuals who would be able to run the state in a crisis.

SB 73’s new line of succession would save precious time for the Legislature and commissioners; there would be no committee meetings to approve of a commissioner to be the successor to the lieutenant governor, as would happen in the normal committee hearing for the commissioner role.

The bill maintains the statute requiring a special election within a set time frame whenever a vacancy occurs in the position of both the governor and lieutenant governor so the chief executive is always elected by the Alaskan people.

With this bill, Alaska will finally have a set line of succession the people of Alaska will be able to understand and clearly follow, removing all disorganization from the current system and increasing productivity in the confirmation process.