

ALASKA STATE HOUSE

Session:

State Capitol Building,
Room 110
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-4936
Fax: (907) 465-2197



Interim:

1292 Sadler Way, Suite 308
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 451-2875
Fax: (907) 456-3346

REPRESENTATIVE DAVE TALERICO

Sponsor Statement for House Bill 37

"An Act relating to an exemption for low-voltage projects from contractor requirements; and relating to an exemption from electrical administrator requirements."

HB 37 removes barriers that make installations of satellite and high-speed internet capabilities in Alaska very costly or impractical, especially in rural areas. Internet is extremely slow in most of Alaska. This bill adds one more avenue for Alaskans to get faster reliable internet via satellite installations.

Currently low voltage internet satellite installers in Alaska are required to have an electrical administrator oversee their work (yet they know very little about) due to old regulations created prior to satellite internet installers. This is prohibiting cost effective satellite internet installations in rural Alaska and thus this bill exempts them as low voltage installers from electrical administrative oversight.

HB 37 also adds an exemption to allow only low voltage contractors performing work on a project under \$10,000 to do so without being a licensed general contractor, thus making small internet projects in rural Alaska financially possible and reasonable.

I urge your support on removing this barrier thus enabling high speed internet options.

Staff contact: Thomas Studler (907) 465-2847