

Representative Calvin Schrage

Alaska State Legislature



Sponsor Statement

House Bill 163

“An Act relating to vehicle title applications”

House Bill 163 eliminates the current requirement for ink signatures on applications for titles and title transfers within the Department of Motor Vehicles. HB 163 gives flexibility to the DMV to begin using electronic signatures.

HB 163 does not force the use of electronic signatures. AS 28.10.211(b) states that “applications for title or transfer of title must contain the signature **in ink** of the owner, or if there is more than one owner, the signature **in ink** of at least one of the owners and the name of each owner stated in the conjunctive or in the disjunctive.” HB 163 deletes the words “in ink” in both places.

Under the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act of 2004 (AS 09.80.010-09.80.195) electronic signatures satisfy the general definition of a signature unless otherwise prohibited. Since the current statute explicitly requires “ink” signatures for title applications, the DMV cannot accept electronic signatures.

HB 163 will give the Department the latitude to determine for itself if it wants to accept electronic signatures in the cases of title transfers and title applications. Covid has taught us that electronic signatures can provide extra convenience to Alaskans in remote or rural parts of the state and can provide long-term efficiencies for the DMV.

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