

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Laddie Shaw

Session Contact

State Capitol, Rm 426
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4945
rep.laddie.shaw@akleg.gov



Interim Contact

1500 W. Benson Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 269-0119

SPONSOR STATEMENT HB148

" An Act relating to the Alaska Coordinate System of 2022."

HB 148 House Bill 148 revises Alaska Statute chapter 38.20, known as the Alaska Coordinate System, to reflect changes in the federal datum used as a base for the coordinate system and to allow for future updates.

The system is comprised of rectangular plane coordinates used to define accurate positions or locations of points on the surface of the earth.

Currently, forty-eight states have adopted state plane coordinate systems into their statutes. This bill revises the Alaska Coordination System as an ongoing modernization of the U.S National Spatial Reference System to reduce the distortions present in the current system. In addition to improved zone locations, that will cover population and resources areas, a new statewide zone will be created for Alaska. This will reduce the distortion of the projection currently in use and improve the display of statewide geographic data.

This is an important and practical step for Alaska to adapt to this coordination system. Alaska will have the advantage of improvements in the geodetic positioning, and with the new gravity-based elevation. This will dramatically improve the ability to measure elevations in Alaska. This modernization effort will benefit scientists, surveyors, design professionals, GIS specialists, and the geospatial community. The improved coordinate system minimizes linear distortions and is designed to include population centers and resource development.

I encourage your support in the passage of HB 148 as it is critical to Alaska maintaining accuracy to surveying and mapping.

April 6, 2021