

Alaska State Legislature

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Sponsor Statement for HB 316 – Bill Version A

HB 316 addresses the need for a standardized improvement tracking system throughout the executive branch. Audit findings and internal issues have been growing in quantity, age, and magnitude across Alaska's State Government meaning that something must be done to improve outcomes.

Organizations seeking to refine and optimize their operations to improve outcomes do so using a variety of methods, but action trackers are one of the most important tools in the continuous improvement toolkit.

Having a formal tracking system in place enables organizations to identify opportunities for improvement and track them to completion. Each improvement opportunity has merit and should be reviewed, but not all can be worked to completion. A select few improvement opportunities will be deemed priorities based on impacts to operations, a rough cost/benefit analysis, age of issue, and resources available.

These high-priority improvement opportunities will then be treated like a project with one or multiple actions and a scheduled completion date. This tracking system will make next steps and progress visible which will lead to realized benefits across state government.

Reports will also include success stories of opportunities and actions that have been completed. These successes should be celebrated, and the executive branch could likely find creative ways to incentivize the closure of these items.

Action items registered in such a system are often referred to as corrective and preventative actions, sometimes using the acronym CA/PA, with corrective action referring to actions taken to remedy what has already occurred, while preventative actions are taken to prevent a future occurrence.

The benefits of a standardized system will be dependent upon the extent to which the organization uses the system, but there is a possibility to increase transparency and accountability across agencies and programs while improving the function of the organization and delivery of value to customers of various services.