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Explanation of Changes

House Bill 349 – Hearing Establish Drilling Units/Spacing

- Page 1, line 1, following "units", inserts "spacing" Updates the title to better reflect that the bill is related to oil and gas well spacing.
- Page 1, lines 5-6 Deletes "the correlative rights of lessees in a pool" in AS 31.05.100(a) and replaces with "correlative rights." This change is helpful because AS 31.05.170 defines correlative rights and this definition is more comprehensive than just lessees in a pool. Also, because the definition exists in statute, the description of who correlative rights applies to is duplicative and unnecessary in AS 31.05.100(a).
- Page 2, following line 11, Inserts a new section (f) to better protect correlative rights considering the changes made by the underlying bill. The goal of this language is to ensure protection of correlative rights is unchanged with the passage of this bill.
- Page 2, line 14, deletes "in a pool without drilling unit or units established under this section." The underlying bill limited AOGCC's ability to protect correlative rights, or the right of each owner to develop his or her share of the resource, in undefined pools. An undefined oil or gas pool is where the extent of the pool boundary is not yet known. The deletion of the text on line 14 allows AOGCC to continue its long-standing practice of using public notice to protect correlative rights whether or not the pool is defined.