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## SSHB 220/Ver. A to Ver G. SUMMARY OF CHANGES

*"An Act relating to easements and rights-of-way in state parks."*

**Section 1** Amends AS 41.21.024(a) to require the Department of Natural Resources to grant a public easement or right-of-way within a state park unit when statutory criteria are met. Approval is mandatory if the commissioner determines the easement will not unduly affect park resources, is in the public interest, and complies with other applicable law. **Adds "removal" to the list of authorized utility activities.**

**Section 2** Amends AS 41.21.024 by adding subsections (b)–(i) to establish application standards, timelines, and procedural protections.

**(b) Requires that granted easements provide adequate and feasible access for the full lifecycle of utility infrastructure.**

**(c) Requires issuance of an easement when statutory criteria are met and prohibits substituting a lesser land use authorization.**

**(d)** Establishes application requirements, including public interest description, project need, location, facilities, environmental assessment, and survey. **Clarifies that a cadastral survey is not required and authorizes GPS-based surveys.**

**(e)** Requires environmental review to be proportional to project scope and directs the department to minimize delays and applicant costs.

**(f)** **Shortens the decision deadline to 60 days** following receipt of a complete application. Requires written reasons for denial. Authorizes reasonable terms and fees. Provides automatic approval if no action is taken within 60 days unless otherwise prohibited by law.

**(g)** **Prohibits conditions requiring unrelated off-site improvements, duplicative studies, vague or undefined standards, or materially unequal treatment of similarly situated applicants.**

**(h)** Requires regulations allowing use of valid existing easements crossing park land and prohibits unreasonable restrictions when statutory criteria are met.

**(i)** **Clarifies that "public interest" includes access to private property, improved utility infrastructure, and local community and economic benefits.**

**Section 3** Updates applicability to reflect subsection changes and specifies that regulations apply to easements granted on or after the effective date of the Act.