



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## House Bill 162

### *Sponsor Statement 3/06/26*

“An Act relating to the diagnosis, maintenance, and repair of products that use digital electronics to operate; adding an unlawful act to the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act.”

In recent decades, manufacturers have often used the inclusion of digital components in modern equipment to limit consumer repair opportunities. By refusing to publish repair documentation, welding replaceable parts together, and using privately owned tools, they create artificial monopolies that result in unnecessarily high barriers to product repair.

House Bill 162 offers a balanced solution to this issue, ensuring fair access to the information and tools needed to repair digital equipment including consumer electronics, household appliances, and ATVs, as well as small snow removal, lawn care, and farm equipment.

The undue burden manufacturers place on consumers through policies that force them to replace rather than repair their products results in unsustainable product purchasing cycles, increased e-waste that can be difficult for small communities to manage, and higher financial burdens on consumers. The problem is exacerbated in Alaska, where official repair avenues are even less accessible and more expensive than in the Lower 48, and sometimes aren't available at all. In rural and remote areas, equipment like ATVs, snow machines, and small tractors are critical to daily life. The barriers to self-repair created by manufacturers are not only costly; they can also be dangerous.

HB 162 will ensure Alaskans have access to essential documentation, tools, and parts at fair market prices. This will empower consumers to repair rather than replace their equipment, saving money where it matters and reducing waste that often overburdens small communities. Additionally, it will foster a competitive marketplace for independent repair businesses, keeping jobs and resources in-state.

Alaskans are known for self-sufficiency and resourcefulness. We don't just like to make things work—we need to. HB 162 supports this vital tradition by making repair options accessible, reducing waste, and helping Alaskans maintain the equipment they rely on.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the legislature for their consideration and urge you to support HB 162 in order to empower our residents and put the power back in their hands.