

HB 162: Digital Product Repair

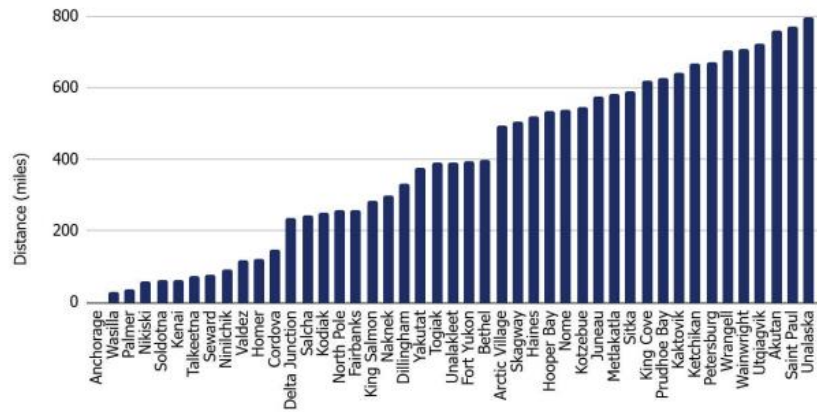
Sponsored by Representative Dibert

Right to Repair

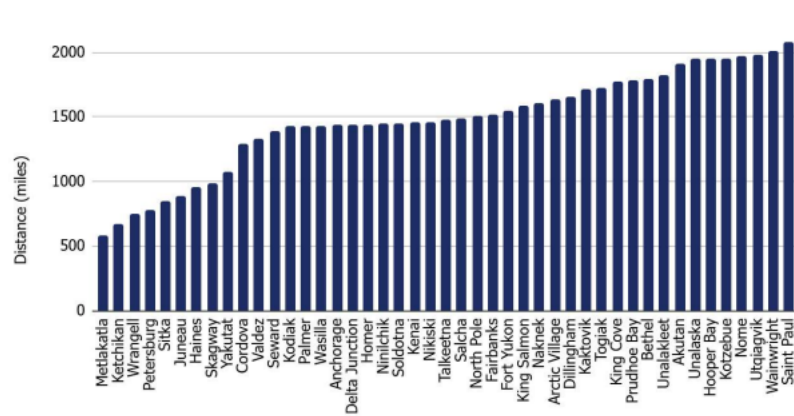
- What Is “Right to Repair”?
- The right of consumers and independent repair providers to maintain and repair products that contain digital electronics
- Ensures access to necessary parts, tools, and repair documentation
- What Problem Does It Address?
- Manufacturer practices that limit or restrict repair options
- Use of proprietary tools, software locks, and restricted documentation
- Repair that is prohibitively expensive or geographically inaccessible — especially in Alaska
- Why Does Right to Repair Matter in Alaska?
- Promotes consumer choice and self-reliance
- Reduces unnecessary waste and electronic pollution
- Supports independent repair businesses and local economic activity
- Reduces financial burdens on households
- Ensures access to critical equipment in rural and remote communities
- Aligns Alaska with other states that have adopted similar policies
- How Does HB 162 Work?
- Requires manufacturers to provide the same parts, tools, and documentation to consumers and independent repair providers that they provide to authorized repair providers
- Requires availability on fair and reasonable terms
- Enforced by adding a provision to the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act

Authorized Repair Providers in Alaska

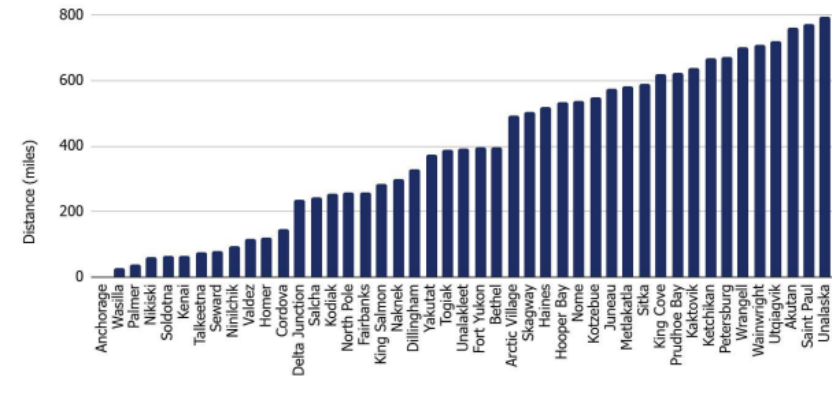
Distance to authorized Apple repair services



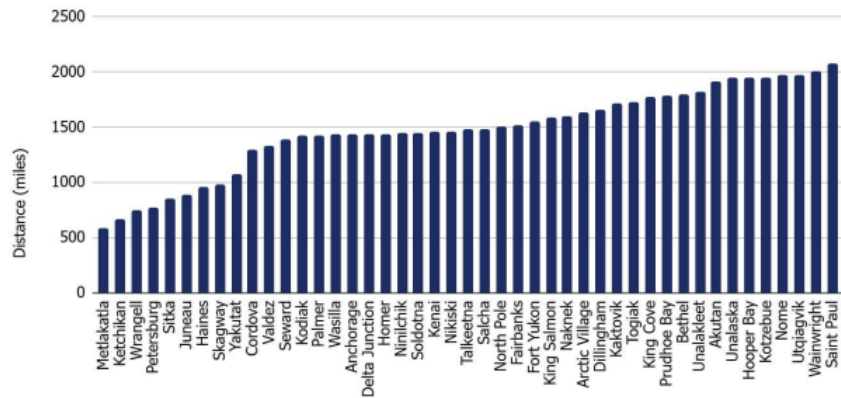
Distance to authorized Samsung phone repair services



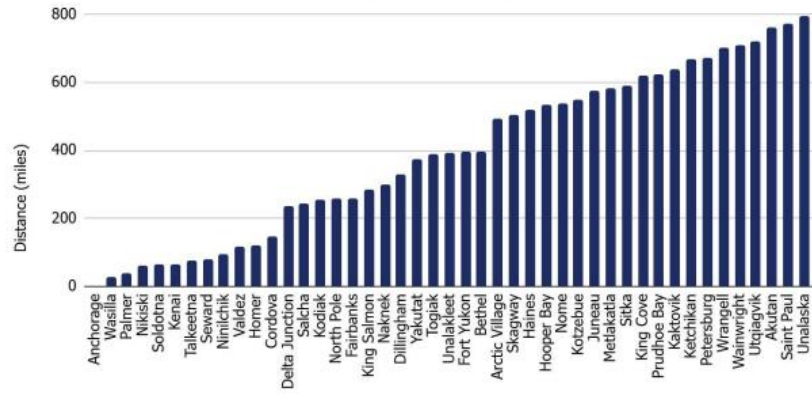
Distance to authorized Samsung appliance repair services



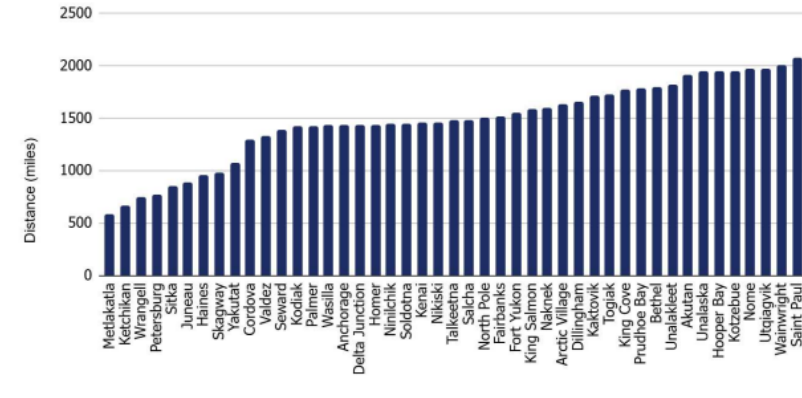
Distance to authorized Lenovo repair services



Distance to authorized LG appliance repair services

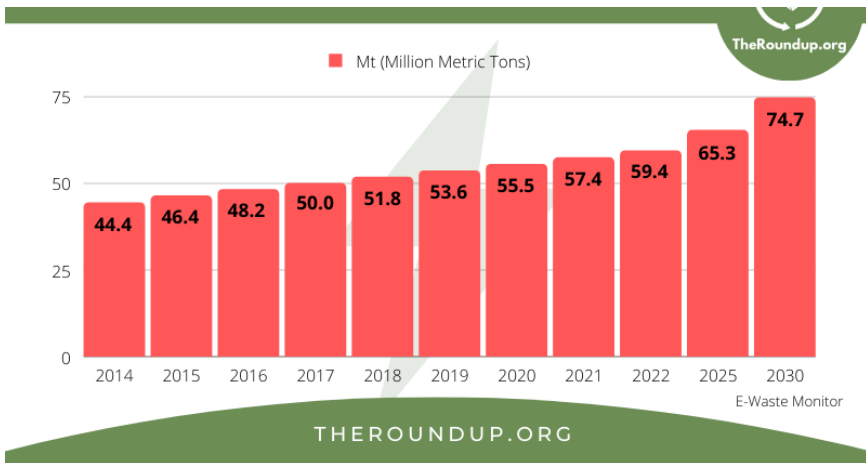


Distance to authorized Maytag appliance repair services





Environmental Protection Agency. "Toxins from Hazardous Wastes Burned or Disposed in Unlined Landfills Negatively Affect Community and Environmental Health." Environmental Protection Agency, 15 Jan. 2025, www.epa.gov/sciencematters/community-based-research-rural-alaska-native-communities-informs-hazardous-waste.



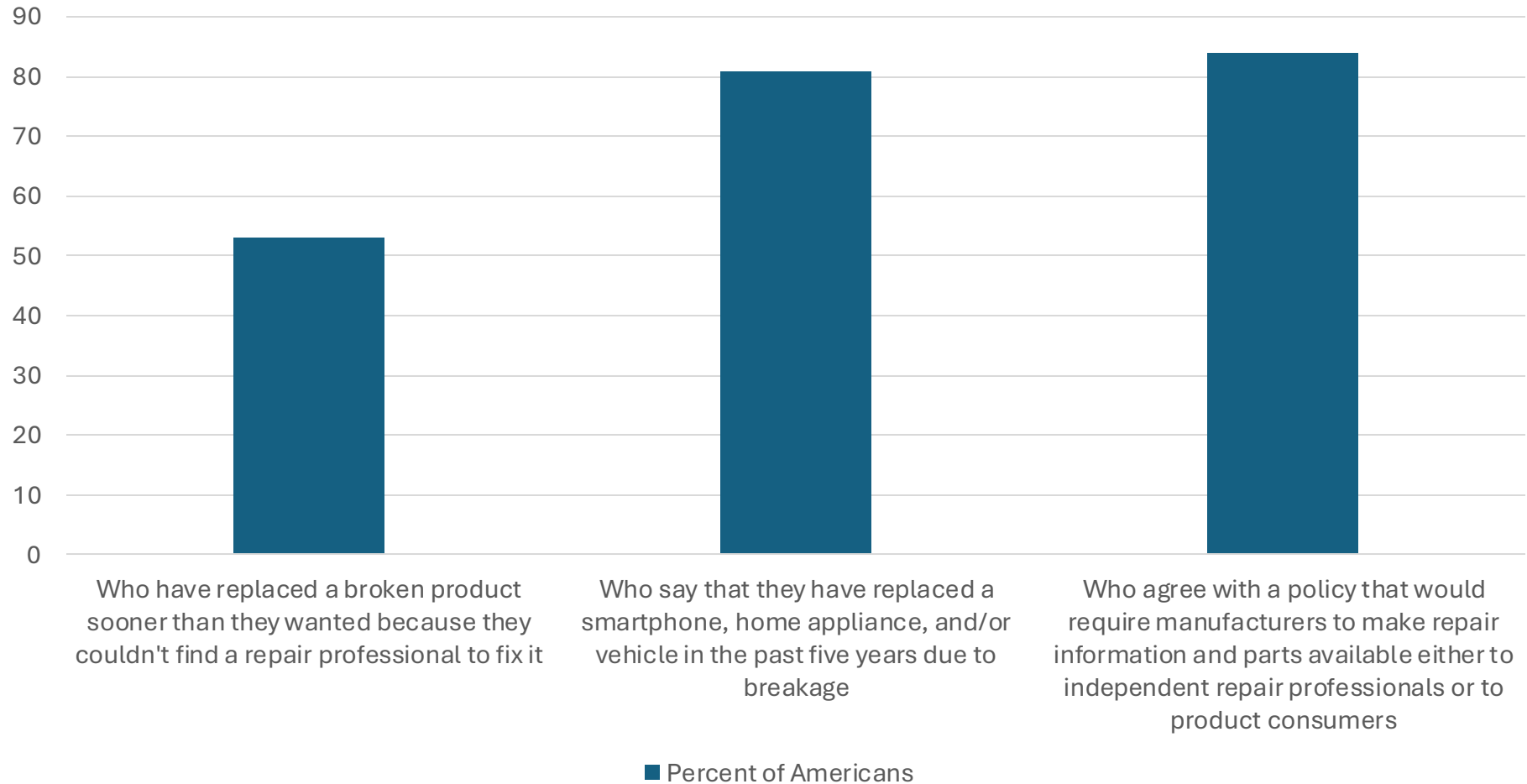
Ruiz, Arabella. "Total Annual Global E-Waste Generation." *The RoundUp*, 26 Jan. 2026, theroundup.org/global-e-waste-statistics/.

Electronic Waste (E-Waste) and Environmental Impact

- E-waste is the fastest growing form of waste in the world
- Many rural Alaska communities face significant waste management challenges, including limited landfill infrastructure and high transportation costs for hazardous materials
- E-waste can contain hazardous substances such as lead, mercury, cadmium, and arsenic, which may pose environmental and health risks if improperly disposed of
- Extending the lifespan of electronic devices has measurable environmental benefits. Studies suggest that keeping a computer in use for one additional year can significantly reduce its lifetime carbon footprint
- Right to Repair policies can help reduce the e-waste stream by enabling consumers to maintain and extend the useful life of digital products

Right to Repair: Consumer Perspective

Consumer Reports Right to Repair Survey Results



■ Percent of Americans

Mahoney, Maureen, and George Slover. "Consumer Reports Survey Finds Americans Overwhelmingly Support the Right to Repair." *Consumer Reports* | *Advocacy*, 28 Feb. 2022, [advocacy.consumerreports.org/press_release/consumer-reports-survey-finds-americans-overwhelmingly-support-the-right-to-repair/](https://www.consumerreports.org/press_release/consumer-reports-survey-finds-americans-overwhelmingly-support-the-right-to-repair/).

Comparison of Right to Repair in Other States

State	Scope
Alaska (proposed)	Digital electronic equipment
California	Electronics, appliances, powered wheelchairs
Colorado	Digital electronic equipment, agricultural equipment, powered wheelchairs
Connecticut	Electronics and appliances
Maine	Motor vehicles
Maryland	Powered wheelchairs
Massachusetts	Motor vehicles (diagnosis & repair info, telematics)
Minnesota	Digital electronic equipment
Nevada	Powered wheelchairs
New York	Digital electronic equipment
Oregon	Consumer electronics
Texas	Digital electronic equipment
Washington	Digital electronic equipment, powered wheelchairs

- Most common exemptions: motor vehicles, video game consoles, agricultural equipment, medical devices
- Some exceptions for out of production parts, intellectual property, and trade secrets exist
- Several states ban parts pairing (practice of serializing specific components)

Addressing Concerns with HB 162

Concerns over intellectual property:

- Information other than product documentation in a license or contract between digital product manufacturers and authorized service providers isn't required to be made available to independent service providers or owners
- IP is protected federally and HB 162 provides additional protections for trade secrets

Concerns over financial harms to manufacturers:

- Manufacturers are able to charge consumers and independent repair providers the same rates they give contractors for the same documentation, parts, and tools
- Manufacturers that operate primarily through dealerships have exemptions to ensure they can keep their business model sustainable

Concerns over financial harms to repair providers:

- Authorized repair providers will still be the go-to for many people because of their experience and expertise
- HB 162 works by allowing those who might not be able to access authorized repair providers the ability to still be able to get their products fixed by DIY or independent repair provider

Concerns over product tampering:

- There are already anti-tampering regulations and enforcement mechanisms in place federally; cybersecurity experts also agree right to repair isn't a threat to security
- Right to repair promotes consumers buying more modern, regulations-friendly products rather than sticking with older models because of their repairability

Concerns over conditions that void warranties:

- Under the Magnusson-Moss Warranty Act, policies that prevent consumer or third party repair are actually unenforceable and in some cases illegal on a federal level



Changes to HB 162

- CS to incorporate the three amendments made to companion SB 111, which we agree with
- Adds medical devices to exemptions from the bill
- Includes powersports equipment to specific exemption of agricultural equipment that is intended to allow dealerships that they primarily operate through to charge reasonable prices and protect their business model
- Prohibits parts pairing, the practice of serializing parts to reduce functionality if not installed in exact accordance with manufacturer practice
 - Example: someone switches the screens between two identical iPhones, but neither work because the screens are not paired to that specific phone's serial number
- Changes the effective date to Jan 1, 2027



Questions?