



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**JUDICIARY**  
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Chair Rep. Sarah Vance

House.Judiciary@akleg.gov

(907) 465-2689

**Sponsor Statement**

**HB 131 Voting Machines**

*“An Act relating to voting machines and vote tally systems; and providing for an effective date.”*

HB 131 sets a standard for voting machines and vote tally systems to be certified by the United States Election Assistance Commission and use only open-source software technology.

Open-source tabulators utilize software available to the public that is used, modified, or distributed freely, and is fully transparent. These tabulators use commercial off-the-shelf hardware that is mass produced with commercially available hardware devices, making it less appealing to hackers. Coupled with hard copy paper ballots, open-source tabulators create the most secure voting system to reconcile the numbers of ballots cast when counting votes.

Currently, Alaska utilizes proprietary voting tabulators that are not air-gapped. These tabulators can connect to a modem and are suspected of remote manipulation. Because of the proprietary and secret nature of the voting tabulator, public confidence in the accuracy of the count is at an all-time low. Real or perceived, the current system has a reputation that undermines confidence in our elections.

HB 132 seeks to build confidence in our elections with open and transparent vote tally systems that can be easily verified.