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SB 35 Delivery Network Companies Sponsor Statement Version T.A.

Senate Bill 35 would create a level playing field for couriers involved in Delivery Network Companies and Transportation Network Companies in Alaska. This legislation would classify individuals who provide delivery services through digital networks as independent contractors, provided they meet certain statutory criteria. Currently, couriers are not specifically defined in Alaska statute. Similar issues exist in other states and have led to confusion and legal battles across the country, threatening services that customers value.

SB 35 requires that transportation and delivery network companies maintain group or blanket occupational accident insurance coverage while a driver or courier is engaged in a prearranged ride or providing delivery services. Additionally, the bill requires a digital network company's primary auto insurance policy to provide coverage while a driver is logged onto a digital network and engaged in a prearranged ride or while a courier is providing delivery services. Companies must file a written certificate of insurance including all coverage they provide to drivers with the Director of the Division of Insurance. This legislation also requires a driver's personal insurance to cover any loss or injury, when appropriate.

This bill provides insurance protection to couriers that drive for Delivery Network Companies and eliminates issues drivers have experienced if an accident occurs. Currently, it is difficult for drivers to find insurance that will provide coverage if a driver declares they are a DNC or TNC driver.

SB 35 will eliminate inconsistencies in statute related to workers' compensation, provide protection for drivers, and create opportunities for people who use and rely on these companies to supplement their income.

I urge your support of Senate Bill 35.