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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Cathy Tilton
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Tilton:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill that would shift the substantive rules relating to the sale, storage, and use of fireworks in Alaska from statute to regulation, thereby allowing a more streamlined and up-to-date approach to the state's management of fireworks.

The bill would eliminate the substantive statutes governing fireworks and, in their place, authorize and direct the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to adopt regulations for the sale, storage, and use of fireworks. The fireworks statutes have not changed in several decades, and this bill is intended to allow DPS to bring the state's rules in-step with more modern approaches found in the International Fire Code and National Fire Protection Association regulations.

Under the bill, DPS would be required to enact regulations establishing minimum standards for the sale, storage, distribution, and use of fireworks, and would be permitted to establish reasonable fees for fireworks permits and inspections. The department would further be authorized to enter any building where fireworks are stored or kept for the sole purpose of ensuring compliance with fireworks regulations.

Regulations adopted by DPS under this bill would supersede municipal ordinances relating to fireworks that are less restrictive than the department's regulations. A municipality would be permitted, however, to enact ordinances that are more restrictive than the regulations. A violation of regulations established under the bill would be a class B misdemeanor.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Mike Dunleavy, written in a cursive style.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure