

Alaska State Legislature

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Sponsor Statement for SB 201 – Bill Version B

While Alaska proudly bears the nickname of “The Last Frontier,” there are some areas where being last is not ideal. Improving our state’s digital infrastructure is now at the forefront of importance, as we have learned of departments and their clients dealing with backlogs, extended processing time, frustration, and other issues that are symptoms of outdated and inefficient systems.

SB 201 recognizes the fundamental role of Information Technology (IT) projects in innovative solutions that can move Alaska into a new era of management and operations. Designing and managing the scope of an IT project can be daunting, and teams sometimes fail to efficiently deliver a fully optimized result, because they are not adequately supported with the specific set of information, skills and expertise required to successfully manage the project.

Recognizing the challenges, SB 201 establishes the Office of Information Technology as a statutorily defined division within the Department of Administration. This legislation creates clear roles, guides development of structured processes, and standardizes management practices for overseeing IT projects across state agencies. SB 201 represents a significant leap forward in modernizing our IT governance, ensuring transparency, and elevating the quality of services provided to the people of Alaska.

Key features of SB 201 empower the State Chief Information Officer (CIO) to oversee IT projects, ensuring adherence to best practices, ensuring budget compliance, and delivering results that align with legislative intent. SB 201 also requires state agencies to document IT project requirements in biennial information technology plans, promoting transparency and accountability. This provision allows the legislature to make informed decisions on budget requests and other project reporting provides visibility into project progress fostering a more efficient and outcome-oriented approach to IT project management.

In conclusion, SB 201 is a vital step towards modernizing IT project management in Alaska. It acknowledges the role of IT projects in addressing our state's unique challenges and improving the cost-effectiveness of our programs. Advancing this bill helps to create a more efficient, responsive, and customer-driven information technology landscape in our state, ensuring that IT projects continue to play a crucial role in enhancing the lives of all Alaskans.