

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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House Bill 376

“An Act relating to Transportation network and delivery network companies.”

Sponsor Statement

I am proud to introduce House Bill 376, which aims to address critical aspects of labor regulations concerning transportation network companies (TNCs) and delivery network companies (DNCs) in the state of Alaska. This bill seeks to clarify the classification of workers within these industries, ensuring that they are treated fairly and equitably under the law.

Over the past decade, the rise of transportation and delivery network companies has transformed the way people and goods are transported and delivered. These companies provide valuable services that enhance mobility, convenience, and accessibility for individuals and businesses alike. However, as the gig economy has expanded, questions have arisen regarding the classification of workers and their rights and protections under existing labor laws.

House Bill 376 addresses these concerns by refining the classification of workers within the TNC and DNC sectors. It ensures that individuals who provide prearranged rides or delivery services through digital networks are properly classified as independent contractors, provided they meet specific criteria outlined in the bill.

This bill will address policy inconsistencies and improve the working standards of delivery drivers in Alaska. This legislation aims to align the status of delivery drivers with that of rideshare drivers, recognizing them all as essential contributors to the digital marketplace. The current distinction between rideshare and delivery drivers in relation to workers' compensation does not reflect the fluid nature of their roles, where drivers often switch between passenger transportation and goods delivery. This creates needless uncertainty and potential inconsistency in the application of our laws, undermining the flexibility and supplemental income opportunities that platform workers rely on.

Furthermore, this bill seeks to ensure Alaska stays in line with developments in other states where marketplace platform workers across all platforms are treated uniformly. Such consistency is paramount in fostering fairness, understanding, and avoiding legal ambiguities in this fast-growing digital space. Similar to other states, Alaska should establish a policy environment that attributes equal regulatory treatment to all platform workers, regardless of their chosen platform. This will not only demonstrate Alaska's commitment to valuing all digital platform workers but will also encourage a fair and inclusive digital marketplace.