

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Session: January - April
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Official Business

Sponsor Statement

HB 36 - Energy Efficient Small Business Grant Fund and Program

Rising energy costs in Alaska mean that energy expenditures have an increasingly substantial impact on the bottom line of small businesses in the state. As such, building energy efficient business structures is in the interest of any small business owner who wishes to save energy and money.

Currently, the state provides an incentive for homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Home Energy Rebate Program. House Bill 36 is modeled after this residential program and aims to help small business owners optimize energy usage at the lowest possible cost.

The Small Business Energy Rebate Fund and Program would allow small business owners wishing to make energy efficiency improvements on their businesses to receive a rebate for some of their expenditures. The program requires an energy rater to evaluate the business structure before and after the improvements. Rebates would then be dependent on the relative amount of efficiency gained and receipts from eligible improvements chosen by the business owner from the energy rating's improvement options list.

There are over 16,000 small employers in Alaska today. Extending the energy efficiency grants that homeowners enjoy to small business owners is one way to encourage energy efficiency and to help the small business owners that are such an important source of employment and opportunity in Alaska.

I respectfully ask for your consideration of this bill and look forward to hearing your questions and concerns.

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