

## **Senate Bill 26, version A** **Sponsor Statement**

***“An Act petitioning the United States Department of Transportation to change the time zones of Alaska and exempt the state from daylight saving time; and providing for an effective date.”***

Alaska is a unique state with geographic and environmental characteristics that set it apart from the rest of the nation. One of these distinct factors is its time zone, which does not align well with the natural rhythms of our state’s residents and economy. This bill, Senate Bill 26, is a step toward making Alaska's timekeeping more practical, efficient, and in tune with our local needs.

Many constituents have expressed frustration with the current time system, particularly with the disruptions caused by daylight saving time (DST). They have asked for change, noting that the time shifts and mismatched daylight hours negatively impact their daily routines, productivity, and overall quality of life. Alaskans deserve a time system that reflects their unique circumstances, and this bill aims to address these concerns.

By enacting SB 26, we will not only make timekeeping in Alaska more practical and efficient, but we will also take steps to modernize how we coordinate with other states and regions by moving into the Pacific Time Zone. The changes proposed in this bill will create a more consistent, sustainable, and sensible timekeeping system for Alaska.

