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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Below is clarifying information and answers to questions asked by committee members in the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee on April 30, 2024.

Summary of Changes: The version of changes presented in committee was between the original version drafted in the House of Representatives versus the bill passed by the body, and *not* the differences between the Senate and House versions. Below are the differences between the two bodies' respective companion bills:

- **Page 2, Lines 7-8** – Technical fix to clarify an assessor may be certified above level 3.
- **Page 2, Line 10** – Requires the assessor to meet with property owners to answer questions about their assessment.
- **Page 3, Line 10** – Extends the effective date of the Act to January 1, 2026 to allow municipalities time for implementation.

Full and True Value: The bill does not change the definition of full and true value. It sets best practices standards for the assessment process.

How many Municipalities have a Level 3-certificated Assessor?

- The state currently has 8 of our 13 municipal assessors with level 3 or higher. A number of other assessors have the appropriate years of experience but need to complete their most recent continuing education.
- In addition, the State of Alaska has reciprocity. We honor certifications from other states and years of experience in other states can be used towards your Alaska certification.
- For clarification, only the lead assessor must be level 3. The assessors they supervise do not need a certification.

Would the requirement for an assessor to meet with property owners regarding disputed assessments overload the assessors' offices?

- The committee could add safeguards to the language in Section 4 of the bill (page 2, lines 12-14) to clarify the meeting may occur virtually or by phone and allow an assessor's "designee" to take the meeting.