



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## House Bill 162

### *Sponsor Statement*

“An Act relating to the diagnosis, maintenance, and repair of products that use digital electronics to operate; adding an unlawful act to the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act.”

The inclusion of digital components in modern equipment has allowed manufacturers to limit consumer repair opportunities at the expense of Alaskans. House Bill 162 offers a balanced solution, ensuring fair access to the information and tools needed to repair digital equipment including consumer electronics, household appliances, ATVs, as well as small snow removal, lawn care, and farm equipment.

Manufacturers have made repairs difficult—if not impossible—by withholding repair documentation and restricting specialized tools from public access. This forces Alaskan consumers to replace rather than repair their equipment, adding unnecessary costs and inconveniences. These burdens are even greater in Alaska, where authorized service providers are scarce, and shipping to out-of-state repair centers is often unfeasible. In rural and remote areas, equipment like ATVs, snow machines, and small tractors are critical to daily life. The barriers to self-repair created by manufacturers are not only costly but can also be dangerous.

HB 162 will ensure Alaskans have access to essential documentation, tools, and parts at fair market prices. This will empower consumers to repair rather than replace their equipment, saving money and reducing waste. Additionally, it will foster a competitive marketplace for independent repair businesses, keeping jobs and resources in-state.

Alaskans are known for self-sufficiency and resourcefulness. We don't just like to make things work—we need to. HB 162 supports this tradition by keeping repair options accessible, reducing waste, and helping Alaskans maintain the equipment they rely on.

I strongly urge you to support HB 162.