

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SESSION

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### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### Senate Bill 118

***“An Act relating to surveys required to be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources; relating to peer review by the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors of required surveys submitted to the Department of Natural Resources; and providing for an effective date.”***

Senate Bill 118 creates a peer review alternative to the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) review of survey work submitted to the State of Alaska. The bill amends state law to allow the administration facilitate a peer review process of survey work through a subcommittee of the State Board of Registration of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.

During the past several years, the State of Alaska has worked to address a substantial backlog in processing permit applications. While funds appropriated in the budget have helped alleviate some systemic issues, more work is needed and limited funds are available for additional reforms. Land surveyors are licensed professional, are held to high standards by the State of Alaska, and can play a role in enhancing the state’s permitting process.

Senate Bill 118 proposes utilizing technical expertise in the private sector as part of permit review. Under the bill, permit applicants submitting survey work to the state would have the option of going through the traditional departmental review, or have their submissions analyzed by a subcommittee of three land surveyors. The subcommittee would be organized by the board, funded with program receipts, and be comprised of professional surveyors who do not have a financial interest in the project. DNR retains final decision making authority on permitting but is held to a two week timeline after receiving peer reviewed work.

Senate Bill 118 provides an expedient alternative for permit applicants that could help advance development projects, while also easing workloads for the department.

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