

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

EVALUATING ALASKA'S SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

Senator Gary Stevens, Chair
Senator Jesse Bjorkman
Senator Jesse Kiehl
Senator Bert Stedman



Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Louise Stutes
Representative George Rauscher
Representative Sarah Vance

Senate Bill 181

“Improving Alaska’s Inter-Agency Data Sharing”

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 181 takes a meaningful step toward modernizing Alaska’s data infrastructure to better serve our workforce, fisheries, education system, and policy-makers. This bill directly addresses Action Point 22(a) of the Final Report of the Joint Legislative Task Force Evaluating Alaska’s Seafood Industry (Jan 2025) by allowing more efficient and responsible sharing of disaggregated data between the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the University of Alaska, and other key agencies by contract agreement when in the best interest of public policy.

Currently, restrictive statutes limit data collaboration, creating silos that slow down permitting processes, obscure workforce trends, and hinder informed policy decisions. SB 181 updates those statutes to enable a more connected, transparent, and effective system for managing scientific, economic, labor and workforce, and educational system information.

A skilled and reliable workforce coupled with solid science is critical for industry modernization and quality improvement, yet Alaska faces persistent challenges in workforce development and retention. Alignment of state resources with industry needs is a key strategy for expanding employment in Alaska. This bill is a step forward by supporting user-friendly services, cost savings, and more responsive governance.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.