

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION:
State Capitol, Rm. 418
Juneau, AK 99801

INTERIM:
1500 W. Benson Blvd
Anchorage, AK 99503



House Energy Committee,
Co-Chair

Community and Regional
Affairs Committee

State Affairs Committee

Joined Armed Services
Committee

REPRESENTATIVE KY HOLLAND

HB 216 **Version A Sponsor Statement** (34-LS0946\A)

HB 216 provides the limited and specific legislative authorization required under AS 42.40.285 for the Alaska Railroad Corporation to convey five identified parcels of railroad land within the City of Whittier to the City, subject to fair market value and existing rights.

In November of 2025, the City Council voted to accept the Railroad's proposal to sell three parcels of land, with the option to later acquire two additional parcels. In December, it authorized the city manager to negotiate a final purchase agreement. That same month, the Railroad submitted a conditional letter of intent conveying its agreement with the terms of the transfer.

However, current statute prohibits the Railroad from selling or otherwise conveying its interest in land without express approval from the legislature. This bill satisfies that statutory requirement and allows the Railroad and the City to proceed with a negotiated transfer to be approved through their respective governing processes. The parcel descriptions are provided for authorization purposes and allow for reasonable modification to accommodate necessary surveying and platting prior to final conveyance.

HB 216 does not establish the terms of sale, require a transfer, or direct how the land must be used. It simply removes the statutory barrier to allow the parties to complete a mutually agreed-upon transaction.