

Representative Nellie Unangiq Jimmie

Alaska State Legislature - House District 38

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Sponsor Statement

HB 213 (Data Sharing; Social Security)

"An Act relating to data sharing by the Department of Administration for driver's license data verification purposes; and providing for an effective date."

House Bill 213 makes changes to let Alaskans apply for a replacement Social Security card fully online.

Right now, we're the only state in the nation where residents cannot do this.

In 2021, Alaska stopped participating in the Driver License Data Verification service that the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators provides because the Department of Law advised that AS 28.15.151 does not let the DMV share the personal information needed to verify a person's identity.

Today, Alaskans that need a replacement Social Security card must either mail documents or bring them to a local Social Security Administration office in-person to confirm their identity.

If you live in an urban part of the state, this is inconvenient. In person, the wait might be long, and you could forget a document at home and have to return to do it all over again. To send mail, you might have to run to a library to print documents, then stop at the store for stamps and an envelope, then drop it at the post office, then wait up to 45 days for everything to be processed.

If you live in a rural part of the state, it's even more inconvenient. The only Social Security Administration offices are in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks. These places can be *literally* hundreds of miles away from home. And mail service is less reliable in remote communities.

I hope to earn your support for House Bill 213, which will make it easier for Alaskans to get replacement Social Security cards without wrongly sacrificing the privacy they deserve.

Please feel free to contact Hayden Johnson in my office with questions. He may be reached at Hayden.Johnson@akleg.gov or (907) 465-5141.