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## HB 220\Ver. A SPONSOR STATEMENT

*“An Act relating to easements and rights-of-way in state parks.”*

**House Bill 220** ensures fair, predictable access to private property and critical infrastructure within Alaska’s state parks while continuing to protect park resources and public safety.

Alaska’s vast public lands are often interwoven with private property and essential utilities. When access is unclear or delayed, landowners, communities, and service providers face unnecessary costs and uncertainty. HB 220 addresses this by requiring the Department of Natural Resources to approve easements and rights-of-way when clear statutory standards are met.

This bill establishes transparent application requirements, proportional environmental review, and firm decision timelines. These reforms reduce bureaucratic delays, provide certainty to property owners and utility providers, and ensure timely access for essential services—without weakening environmental protections.

HB 220 also safeguards existing public access by requiring the continued use of valid easements crossing state parks and prohibiting unreasonable restrictions that interfere with utility operations or access to private land. At the same time, the bill preserves the department’s authority to impose reasonable conditions to protect park resources, public safety, and the environment.

HB 220 is a practical, common-sense solution that balances access, infrastructure, and conservation. It strengthens Alaska’s land management framework, supports economic activity, and ensures our state parks remain both protected and accessible for generations to come.