



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Peggy Wilson
House District 2

SPONSOR STATEMENT HB 194

“An Act relating to the operation of low-speed vehicles.”

A demand exists in many rural Alaskan communities for short-range transportation that is both safe and convenient. Low speed vehicles (LSV's) provide an affordable alternative to standard passenger vehicles, and satisfy the growing demand for reduced-emission transportation. Significant advances have been made in LSV safety technology, such that these vehicles are now equipped with similar equipment and features to those of standard passenger vehicles. These technological developments, along with an increased awareness of vehicle emissions, have made LSV's a common fixture in rural Alaska communities.

In communities throughout Alaska, owners of LSV's are seeking access to more roads. Current law allows LSV's to operate on roads with posted speed limits of not more than 35 mph. This bill will give communities that have less than 25,000 people -and are not connected by road to Anchorage or Fairbanks- the authority to allow LSV's to travel on roads with posted speed limits of not more than 45 mph. Some of these communities, those with high traffic volume, may have safety concerns regarding LSV use; therefore this bill requires that a community pass an ordinance in order to expand LSV use on their roads.

The CS for HB 194 raises the maximum allowable population for any community to be eligible for this bill from not more than 25,000 people to not more than 35,000 people. The CS also clarifies that an LSV may make a crossing at an intersection with any highway so long as the approach highway and the highway the crossing is made to are authorized for LSV use.

By passing HB 194, certain Alaskan communities would be granted the option to increase LSV access where appropriate, thus promoting an affordable transportation solution that increases rural access and results in decreased vehicle emissions.