ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE MARK NEUMAN
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Sponsor Statement

HB 151
USE, REGULATION, AND OPERATION OF BOATS

House Bill 151 extends the sunset dates of the Statewide Boating Safety and Education program.

This program has been successful as more boaters follow safety rules and boating fatalities have steadily decreased during the tenure of the law while bringing Alaskan law into compliance with federal regulations. Under this program, boating deaths in Alaska have decreased by 20% and the lives of at least 17 Alaskan children have been saved by a Kids Don't Float life jacket.

Furthermore, the Statewide Boating Safety and Education Act has allowed the State of Alaska to consistently receive over one million dollars a year in federal funds. To receive full funding for the federal FY 10 this sunset must either be extended or repealed during the 2009 legislative session.

Passage of HB 151 will ensure that a successful program will continue to save lives and that the State of Alaska will continue to have clear and consistent boating safety regulations with ample federal funds to administer safety and educational programs.

I ask for your support extending an effective program that has successfully saved lives.