

Alaska State Legislature

Interim: (June – Dec.)
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Session: (Jan. – May)
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REPRESENTATIVE JOHN HARRIS

Sponsor Statement

HB 318

“An Act relating to public use of unregulated water systems”

In many parts of Alaska water for home and domestic use is difficult to obtain. Many Alaskans do not live in places where water can be reached by drilling a well or tapping into spring water, so many must find other ways to provide water for their personal use.

Some communities have common watering points where people can go to fill containers and haul water to their homes and places of residence. Those watering points may not always be state certified water wells. Under current regulations if 25 people or less use the well water the state of Alaska will allow it, but if more than 25 people use the well the state requires the well to be a Community public water system (PWS). This adds cost and additional management practices some communities don't have the resources to provide, and takes away a person's right to choose what they put into their bodies.

HB 318 allows Alaskans the freedom to choose where and how they get water for their personal use by providing language in statute for unregulated public water systems. This new language will require any watering point that isn't regulated by the state to have a notice posted conspicuously at the watering point stating the water is not regulated and users use it at their own risk. With proper disclosure citizens will be able to choose if they want to use the water and how they will maintain the water system.