

Alaska State Legislature



Senator Hollis French

SB 184 – INTERNET ACCESS TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 184 is meant to bring the workings of the legislature to every computer in Alaska. The legislation would place a webcam in every room where committee meetings are held in the State Capitol. This would ensure that Alaskans can see their legislature in action, live via internet, whenever a scheduled meeting takes place.

These webcams will add to currently available media resources in the capitol. Gavel to Gavel - partly funded by the city of Juneau – provides excellent video coverage of select committee meetings, but the service doesn't have the capacity to cover all proceedings. The current draft of the bill won't replace or duplicate the valuable service provided by Gavel to Gavel, which can be viewed on cable TV networks across the state. Instead, it will ensure that all meetings have video coverage, while also providing a broadcast to anyone with internet access.

Washington, Florida and Texas have recently implemented similar web based initiatives. We know the technology is available. Senate Bill 184 would put this technology to work for Alaskans who want to follow their state government in action.