

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON HOUSE DISTRICT 2

SPONSOR STATEMENT House Bill 216

“An Act relating to deadlines in bills directing the adoption of regulations and to the informative summary required for the proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal of a regulation.”

HB 216 will accomplish two goals relating to changes to state regulations; increasing the speed with which regulations are implemented, and describing in plain, easy-to-understand language all regulations that are adopted, amended or repealed.

Legislators and the public have often been frustrated by the fact that months, or even years, sometimes pass between the time that a bill is passed by the legislature and the time the regulation is implemented. The result is Alaska residents who are confused, and sometimes unable to plan, because they are not clear on what regulation currently exists. As an example: on July 9, 2010, House Bill 277 was signed into law, allowing individuals who have passed a departmentally-approved program to purchase and administer the drug epinephrine in emergency situations. The regulation would state whether ampules or injectors would be authorized for use. In March 2011, the individuals affected by this law, wondered what products to purchase for their 2011 tours. The answer they got was that the regulation had not been written – leaving them waiting on the Department of Health and Social Services to complete its work before they could prepare for their summer season. HB 216 states that any bill requiring creation or modification of any regulation must include a regulation completion deadline.

The other problem addressed by this bill is the confusion and lack of understanding of many proposed regulation changes or new additions. This confusion is caused by the legalese used to describe proposed regulations. This language, while accurately and legally describing proposed regulations, is difficult to understand by the average individual. HB 216 will require that all proposed regulation changes include descriptions, in plain English, of what the original regulation does and what the proposed change will do.

Passage of this legislation will encourage public participation in the regulation review process, as people find it easier to understand what the regulations mean to them. It will also help speed passed legislation to implementation when regulations are completed on a recommended schedule set in statute.