

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 7

HOUSE BILL 15 SPONSOR STATEMENT

"An Act relating to commercial motor vehicle requirements."

Alaska is always on the move. Be it across town or across the state, transportation is extremely important. For the small business owner nearly everything must be moved from somewhere and that is often done by truck. Today's truck laws were written years ago and have not kept up with technology. Today's roads and today's trucks are safer, more reliable and much easier to drive.

House Bill 15 is written to assist these small business owners who need a truck to move their inventory either from the import site, retailer, or wholesaler to their business or job site. These businesses are not in the trucking business but the state treats them that way.

Currently these smaller vehicles are classified as commercial and must have special license plates, unique daily and annual inspections and medical exams all of which costs more.

In any case these extra charges do little to improve safety.

HB 15 changes the current statutory descriptions of commercial vehicles. Many newer modern trucks are designed for safety without extra training. It is unnecessary and burdensome to require these drivers to meet similar requirements as a semi driver hauling big loads across the state. HB 15 gives the owners who use the trucks for work part time an opportunity to use them inside the State of Alaska without unnecessary government harassment.

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