

Alaska Legislature

Representative Charisse Millett

Session:

State Capitol Building, Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone (907) 465-3879
Fax (907) 465-2069
Toll free (888) 269-3879



Interim:

Anchorage LIO
716 W 4th Ave., Room 620
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 269-0222
Fax (907) 269-0223

rep.charisse.millett.akleg.gov

District 24

Sponsor Statement – House Bill 343

In 2012, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation conducted the most comprehensive audit to date of public facilities in Alaska. The results revealed that the State of Alaska could save tens of millions of dollars through a combination of simple and comprehensive systems overhauls. Making older buildings more energy efficient was the most cost effective. But one concern that came out of the audit was that a patchwork of different designs for essentially the same type of building persisted throughout Alaska. This resulted in maintenance fleets having to train much more to work on each individual facility. This in turn resulted in larger costs and slower turnaround times for maintenance and service operations. At a time when Alaska's budget is under greater scrutiny than ever, the need to be mindful and considerate of the public's money must be used when looking at these facilities.

House Bill 343 recognizes that Alaska's state public facilities need to have standardized designs. In cooperation with the Departments of Administrations and Transportation-Public Facilities, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, the Alaska Energy Authority, and engineering, architectural and climate construction organization, standard designs for buildings built for specific purposes would be crafted. This would lead to a reduction in the design and planning phase of buildings, inevitably leading to a cost savings for the state. Retrofitting buildings where feasible in accordance with these standards would have older buildings benefit from a larger maintenance pool and more energy efficient changes that would extend the life of the building and enhance the quality of life for those working in these buildings.

House Bill 343 makes common sense. Without implementing a "one size fits all" policy, the State of Alaska should take steps to lay out standards that are transparent, built upon consensus, and increase the lifespan of public buildings that saves the state from unnecessary future obligations. I respectfully request your support.