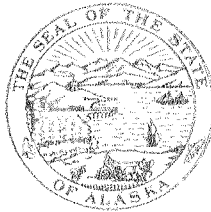


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Sponsor Statement for Senate Bill 24

“An Act relating to the Alaska Marine Transportation Advisory Board”

Senate Bill 24 alters the makeup of the Alaska Marine Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB) by adding a twelfth seat designated for a representative from Southcentral Alaska (Homer, Kodiak, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port Lions and Seldovia). The bill separates these communities from their current inclusion in the Southwest Alaska region MTAB designated seat, to create the new seat. The bill also adds Gustavus to the list of communities from which a person can be appointed to represent the northern Southeast Alaska district on the board.

Originally created by executive order in 2003, MTAB was set in statute in 2009. Among the board's functions are working with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities on a strategic plan related to the Alaska Marine Highway System's (AMHS) mission, objectives, initiatives and performance goals. MTAB meetings often serve as a forum for public comments regarding AMHS scheduling matters.

While not guaranteeing a position on the MTAB board to a resident of a particular Kodiak Island or Kachemak Bay community, it does afford them a better opportunity to have representation than currently available in the larger Southwest district. The addition of Gustavus to northern Southeast Alaska district will have the same effect. This is straightforward legislation intended to help communities who rely on AMHS service obtain a seat at the table and a chance for their voices to be heard. I urge your support of this legislation.