

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Bill Stoltze, Chair  
State Capitol, Room 125  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone (907) 465-4958  
Fax (907) 465-4928



Official Business

Members:

Sen. John Coghill, Vice Chair  
Sen. Charlie Huggins  
Sen. Lesil McGuire  
Sen. Bill Wielechowski

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### ***Sponsor Statement for Senate Bill 58***

*By the Senate State Affairs Committee, by Request*

“An Act relating to workers’ compensation and transportation network companies; and providing for an effective date.”

Senate Bill 58 establishes a workers’ compensation exemption for individuals who operate a motor vehicle under a service agreement with a transportation network company.

Recently emerging in Alaska, transportation network companies provide services by connecting passengers to drivers through a digital network, commonly in the form of a mobile device application.

Currently, taxi companies are allowed an exemption from the Workers’ Compensation Act, which creates an unfair advantage over transportation network companies. Senate Bill 58 is intended to provide equal treatment between taxis and transportation network companies.

The communities of Chugiak and Eagle River have desperately sought transportation options without success. Hopefully, this small piece of the solution will allow municipalities, including Anchorage, the ability to facilitate unmet transportation needs for all Alaskans.