

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE ADAM WOOL

Session: January - April
State Capitol, Room 412
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- Chair: Transportation, Energy
- Vice Chair: Labor & Commerce
- Member: State Affairs

Interim: May - December
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Official Business

House Bill 132 Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to transportation network companies and transportation network company drivers."

House Bill 132, the *Let's Ride Alaska Act*, brings Alaska into the digital age of for hire transportation services which are provided in forty-seven other states. It also diversifies Alaska's economy by giving Alaskans the chance to earn extra money. HB 132 does all of this by allowing rideshare companies to operate in Alaska, also known as "transportation network companies" (TNC).

TNC's have revolutionized how people get around in cities and towns all over the world by allowing the rider to simply login to an app and request a ride at the tap of a screen. Cost is predetermined, so there's no embarrassing scrambling for a couple extra dollars when you come up short on a greater fare than expected. Once the request is made, the driver can select to pick the rider up already knowing their destination with directions built right in. After the trip is made, the transaction is cashless, then both the rider and driver can rate their experience using the platform.

HB132 provides clarity in statute to ensure safety, reliability, and cost-effectiveness of rides provided by TNC drivers in the state, and preserve and enhance access to these important transportation options for residents and visitors of Alaska.

Much like taxi cab drivers, TNC drivers are exempt from the Alaska Workers' Compensation Act and are classified as independent contractors. They maintain their own schedule, their own vehicle, and can even work for a competing company if choose. Rideshare drivers typically work during times of peak demand, when there simply are not enough taxis to supply the demand.

If you've ever been stuck in the bitter cold Alaskan weather without a cab in sight or needed one but no one was willing to drive to where you're located, then you can appreciate why ridesharing technology will be a valuable asset to Alaska and its residents.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.

If you have any questions please contact my aide, Laura Stidolph, (907) 465-4976.