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Sponsor Statement

House Bill 354

An Act Relating to Dive Fishery Management Assessment Procedures

This bill is necessary for the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association, the only dive fishery association in the state regulated by AS 43.76.150-210, to amend the process undertaken to modify the tax on the geoduck, sea cucumber and sea urchin fisheries it represents. Each fishery can tax itself at a different rate. At present, a majority of permit holders are required to initiate the petition to change an assessment tax and then vote on the change. Many of the permits are nontransferable and less than half of the CFEC permit holders in these fisheries are actively participating in said fisheries. Due to the low involvement of permit holders, a majority participation of permit holders is unrealistic. The proposed legislation allows for a change in assessment tax to be initiated by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote from the Board of Directors and the vote to accept the change pass with a majority vote of permit holders participating in the vote.