

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



**SENATOR PETER MICCICHE**  
SENATE DISTRICT O

## **SB 16 Sponsor Statement** **31-LS0283 v. U**

### **Save the Alaska State Fair Act**

*An Act relating to certain alcoholic beverage licenses and permits; and relating to the bond requirement for certain alcoholic beverage license holders.*

In 2017, the Alaska Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board began to “crack down” on alcohol licenses that they deemed to not be intended under state law, placing at risk several long-time licenses important to the Alaska public. One of those license types issued under the recreational site category is the license held by the Alaska State Fair. The Alaska State Fair has been operating under the recreational site license since 1981, and the loss of the ability to serve at the annual event would be financially devastating to the State Fair.

Senate Bill 16 expands the license types to specifically allow alcohol service in three areas that have been impacted through the determination by auditors that the ABC Board should not renew those specific licenses.

The three new license types would be added in to AS 04.11.080 to specifically include a performing arts theater license at a biennial cost of \$1,250, a fair license for the biennial fee of \$800 and a concert permit at a cost of \$50 per event. SB 16 also clarifies that skiing and snowboarding activities are allowable under a recreational site license – which has been historically permissible until 2018.

SB 16 retains all other protections provided under Title 4 statutes while clarifying the availability of the three new license/permits.

Although there remains an effort to update the remainder of Alaska’s Title 4 alcohol statutes, this specific bill is designed to protect the ability of our beloved Alaska State Fair to operate as they have for nearly 40 years, as well as other venue-specific infrequent events.

We believe that the public will be better served by specifically clarifying Title 4 under Senate Bill 16 to provide the ability for the ABC Board to license and manage these specific applications. We respectfully ask for Legislative and public support for passage of the bill.