

Alaska State Legislature

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REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE STUTES
Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov
House District 32
Kodiak-Cordova-Yakutat-Seldovia

Session:
Alaska State Capitol, #406
Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: (907) 465-2487
Fax: (907) 465-4956
Free: (800) 865-2487

Interim:
305 Center Avenue, Suite 1
Kodiak, AK 99615
Phone: (907) 486-8872

Sponsor Statement HB 185 v. M

Revised as of 01/30/20

"An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and providing for an effective date."

This legislation would exempt active commercial fishing vessels, including tenders, from registration requirements created by the passage of SB 92, the "derelict vessel bill."

Specifically, HB 185 would remove the requirement for vessels with a current Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) license to register every three years with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Prior to 2018, U.S. Coast Guard documented vessels were exempt from DMV registration; however, that exemption was repealed with the passage of SB 92 and as a result, larger vessels fell under the DMV's purview.

The rationale was to provide the State and local municipalities with a state-maintained database on who owned and operated vessels in Alaskan waters, as well as how to contact those individuals; overlooked, however, was the CFEC database.

Vessel licensure with the CFEC requires annual renewal and already provides the necessary contact information in a sharable, state database.

Alaska's commercial fishing fleet is the backbone of our state's most vital industry. We shouldn't require those vessels to register every three years with the DMV, at additional cost, only to provide information that the State already has through the vessel's annual license renewal process.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Gruening at 465-3271.