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Sponsor Statement HB 185 v. S

Revised as of 02/11/20

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

This legislation would exempt active commercial fishing vessels from duplicative registration requirements largely created by the passage of SB 92, "the derelict vessel bill," in 2018.

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 the passage of SB 92, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) documented vessels were exempt from DMV registration; however, that exemption was repealed in the bill and as a result, larger vessels fell under the DMV's purview.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.

In addition to removing a duplicative registration on larger fishing vessels that was created by SB 92, this legislation takes the additional step of exempting USCG undocumented CFEC vessels, those under 5 net tons, from a pre-existing registration requirement with the DMV. These vessels will still be subject to the new titling requirement with the DMV, as well as annual CFEC vessel licensure.

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.