

# ALASKA STATE HOUSE

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## REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CRONK

### Sponsor Statement for House Bill 154

"An Act relating to an exemption for low-voltage projects from contractor requirements; and relating to an exemption from electrical administrator requirements."

HB 154 removes barriers that make installations of satellite and high-speed internet capabilities in Alaska very costly or impractical, especially in rural areas. Internet is extremely slow in most of Alaska. This bill adds one more avenue for Alaskans to get faster reliable internet via satellite installations.

With several projects already underway to provide high-throughput satellite service to Alaskans, and now with the pending presidential infrastructure and transportation bill for 2021, there is a commitment to ensure every Alaskan has access to broadband internet. Rural Alaska needs local certified installers who are in proximity to them, and that can provide this crucial service, without outdated regulations increasing the cost of installation.

Currently low voltage internet satellite installers in Alaska are required to have an electrical administrator oversee their work (yet they know very little about) due to old regulations created prior to satellite internet installers. This is prohibiting cost effective satellite internet installations in rural Alaska and thus this bill exempts them as low voltage installers from electrical administrative oversight.

HB 154 also adds an exemption to allow only low voltage contractors performing work on a project under \$10,000 to do so without being a licensed general contractor, thus making small internet projects in rural Alaska financially possible and reasonable.

I urge your support on removing this barrier thus enabling high speed internet options.

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