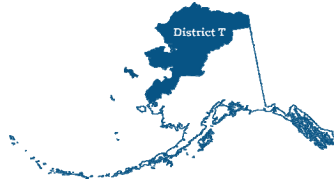


ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON



ALASKA STATE CAPITOL, SUITE 514
JUNEAU, ALASKA, 99801-1182
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SB 109

“An Act Renaming the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council as the Council for Alaska Native Languages; and relating to the Council for Alaska Native Languages”

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 109 reflects a request from the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council to change its name to the “Council for Alaska Native Languages.” This change would shorten the Council’s name while emphasizing the Council’s broader focus, which includes more than just language preservation. In fact, the statute establishing the Council, AS 44.33.520, states the purpose of the Council is to recommend “the establishment or reorganization of programs to support the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native languages.”

The Council also requests an increase in membership from 5 to 7 members in recognition of the diversity of Alaska Native languages in the state (there are at least 20 Native languages in Alaska). This allows for greater language representation on the Council and increases the involvement of a great number of native language speakers from different regions of the state.

I respectfully ask for your support in the passage of SB 109.