



House Bill 3 Sponsor Statement

“An Act relating to the definition of ‘disaster.’”

Cyber threats are increasing at an alarming pace. Over the last few years, there have been dozens of cyber attacks at the local, municipal and state government levels, which have borne upon the safety and operation of services, the privacy of thousands of residents, and cost millions of dollars to the State and private sectors to protect, update and counter any attacks.

According to the National League of Cities, “Governments collect and maintain far more sensitive information than most private sector companies.”

House Bill 3 adds cybersecurity attacks and event to the definition of disasters to the Alaska Disaster Act. The bill stipulates that the Commissioner of Administration or designee will certify to the Governor of a high probability of an attack occurring in the near future that will affect the State’s information systems and operations. The certification must be grounded on specific information, and the attack or event must be widespread, just like a natural disaster.

The bill also defines critical infrastructure.

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