

**Senator Peter A. Micciche**  
*Alaska State Legislature*

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*President of the Senate*

## **Sponsor Statement – SB 219**

### **Version I**

The Personal Use Cabin Permit Program (PUCP) was put in place back in 1984 to solve an issue with folks that had trespassed onto state land and built a cabin. The original intention of the program was to keep the land in state hands, but still have it available for public use. HB 109 was passed in 1997. The bill terminated the permit program with the intent for those Alaskans to be given the opportunity to purchase the land they had been leasing, which has not yet been initiated by the Department. Many of the original permits have expired. Originally there were 558 permits issued and only 126 remain. Over the generations, Alaskan families have created beautiful, lasting memories at these recreational cabins that have become second homes for many. Since the repeal of the program, once a family loses their permit due to death of the permit holder, being late for renewal, or a department mistake, the permit expires forever, and the cabin must be removed from the land.

SB 219 is designed to solve one of the issues beyond the control of a family with a permitted cabin. The Bill creates the opportunity for an immediate family member to apply for permit rights for the remaining life expectancy of the original permit holder in the case of a premature accidental death of the last permit holder. The permit extension could not exceed beyond the remaining term of the average life span of an Alaskan, provided by the National Center for Health Statistics. Currently, permits are non-transferrable and are only valid for the lifetime of the permit holder. Back when permits were still being issued, a family was able to list multiple names on the permit in the event of the death of the original permit holder. However, once the program was repealed it has not been possible for families to add names or transfer their permits to keep it in the family. Therefore, many families have lost their permits and their cabins. SB 219 would allow the previously expected use of permitted cabins on state lands while DNR establishes a long-term solution to provide better structure to the PUCP program, and the sale of state lands for that purpose.

I urge your support of this bill to help families keep their Personal Use Cabin Permits for the expected term in the event of the premature death of the permit holder. Please contact my staff, Madison Govin at 465-8181 for additional information.