



Representative Andi Story

Alaska State Legislature

House District 3

Upper Mendenhall Valley

Haines
Klukwan
Gustavus
Skagway

Member
House Education

Member
House State Affairs

Contact

Rep. Andi Story
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th St
Juneau, AK 99801

907-465-3744

rep.andi.story@akleg.gov

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 26

March 1, 2023

"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"

House Bill 26 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. 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 five to seven 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 HB 26.

