



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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### **Sponsor Statement for House Bill 178**

This legislation provides statutory guidance to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation in administering the Village Safe Water Program. It directs the Commissioner to prioritize Village Safe Water projects based on need. Historically, the amount of funding available for sanitation improvements in rural Alaska was inadequate to meet all the identified needs. However, that is no longer the case. Now that there is adequate funding, House Bill 178 would ensure that the communities with the worst water and sewer infrastructure would be the first communities served by the Village Safe Water Program.