

Alaska State Legislature

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Session: Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801
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Representative Tom McKay
Representative Sarah Vance
Representative Jesse Sumner
Representative Louise Stutes
Representative Genevieve Mina

House Transportation Committee

House Bill 128 – An Act relating to the definition of ‘oil terminal facility’.

Sponsor Statement

Alaska statute AS 46.04.900(14) defines oil terminal facilities for oil spill planning purposes. That definition includes certain vessels that transfer oil cargo between vessels. Both land-based oil terminals and vessels that deliver oil as cargo are required by law to have oil spill response plans known as contingency plans.

- Land based terminals have a planning standard that requires equipment to respond to a spill from their largest tank.
- Vessels have a planning standard that requires equipment to respond to a spill that is a percentage of their total cargo.

The planning standard is different for each category because responding to a spill on land is much different than on water.

House Bill 128 clarifies that vessels that already have oil spill contingency plans as required by and in compliance with Alaska law, do not need to also comply with oil spill requirements for land-based terminals. By clarifying the statute, oil terminal facilities will continue to have oil spill planning requirements and vessel operators will continue to have oil spill planning requirements, but the commingling and confusion will be addressed and the timely, affordable, and safe delivery of fuel to communities in rural Alaska will continue unabated.

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