

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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House Approves Department Name Change **“Alaska is open for business,” Kohring says**

(Juneau) – The House of Representatives passed House Bill 288 by a vote of 36 to zero today. Rep. Vic Kohring (R-Wasilla/Mat-Su) sponsored the bill that changes the name of the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) to the Department of **Commerce**, Community & Economic Development.

“The new name more closely reflects the department’s mission,” said Kohring. “That is, to further not only economic development, but commerce in Alaska. ***It also let’s the world know that we’re open to do business and we welcome investments here.***”

Kohring feels that this change will give greater emphasis to the department’s goals and strategies, marketing Alaska’s goods and services throughout the world as well as facilitating exchange of information between Alaska exporters and potential customers that could result in new business activity in the state.

“I also feel that that new name will further clarify our efforts to attract investments to Alaska,” Kohring said. He added the word “Community” is important to the name, making it clear that developing the state’s communities, both rural and urban are essential.

Changing the name is consistent with that used by other states in the country, including Utah, Montana, Idaho, and North Dakota and South Dakota.

[House Bill 288](#) now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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