



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

Sponsor: Senator John Cowdery
Current Version: SB 358
Contact: Richard Schmitz, 465-3879 Interim: 269-0222
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 358

Short Title: Alaska Railroad Track Work

Summary:

- Amends the state procurement code on rail construction projects to give the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities flexibility to use either competitive bids or to work directly with the Alaska Railroad through agreements similar to other utilities.

Benefits:

- Possible lower costs and time savings for DOT-PF.
- Ensures better quality of work and guarantees industry standards for the Alaska Railroad.

Background:

In 1998, the state procurement code required that railroad facility work on a DOT project, other than signalization and flagging, be obtained through the use of a competitive bid process. Before 1998, DOT worked directly with the railroad under a utility agreement. Now, there are a minimal number of contractors in Alaska who possess the specialized equipment and skill necessary to construct critical track work in conformance with contract specifications. SB 358 would allow DOT to use either the competitive bid process, or work directly with the Railroad for critical track work under a utility agreement.