



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: www.akrepublicans.org

Sponsor: Senator Gene Therriault
Current Version: CSSB 32 (RES)
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 32

Short Title: WATER/SEWER/WASTE GRANTS TO UTILITIES

Summary:

- Expands eligibility for Municipal Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Matching Grants to include privately-owned water and sewer utilities that are regulated by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska under AS 42.05.

Benefits:

- Creates equity for public and private utility ratepayers and encourages privatization of public utilities.

Background:

- Municipalities that operate public utilities have the ability to receive grants to expand utilities. Private utilities that are regulated by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to provide public utilities to a service area do not qualify for grants. This results in increased utility costs for customers of the private utilities and discourages private operation of public utilities. The Regulatory Commission of Alaska, whose mission is to protect consumer interests and promote economic development by ensuring affordable, reliable utility services and adequate utility infrastructure, believes passage of SB 32 will increase utility infrastructure throughout the state and that grant-funded infrastructure will reduce rates for consumers.