

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CS for House Bill 288

“Changing the name of the Department of Community & Economic Development”

Confusion exists as to the actual mission of the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) on whether Alaska has an agency that is tasked with promoting commerce and economic development. It has somewhat complicated efforts to attract investment to the state.

Governor Murkowski, in his State of the State speech in January, announced his administration was now referring to the department as the “Department of Commerce” (short, for the Department of Commerce & Economic Development).

The Committee Substitute for [House Bill 288](#) officially renames DCED to the Department of *Commerce*, Community and Economic Development. I believe the name change more closely reflects its mission. That is, to further commerce and develop Alaska’s economy.

Further, the name change more correctly reflects the goals and strategies of the department, such as promoting local economic development and crucial infrastructure, marketing Alaska’s goods and services throughout the world, organizing and conducting business trade missions to expand product sales in current markets and develop new markets, and facilitating the exchange of information between Alaska exporters and potential customers.

Lastly, by adding the name “Commerce” into the title, it becomes consistent with numerous other states, including Utah, Montana, Idaho, and North Dakota and South Dakota.