

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Pete Kott
Speaker of the House
House District 17

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HCR 32

Relating to information infrastructure and establishing the Alaska Information Infrastructure Policy Task Force.

[House Concurrent Resolution 32](#) establishes the Alaska Information Infrastructure Policy Task Force. The task force will be charged with consideration of Alaska's role and interest in long-term information infrastructure development.

The development of information infrastructure will provide Alaska communities with access to broadband connectivity and provide for improved telecommunications, health care, education, homeland security, and economic development opportunities.

Access to fiber optic connectivity will help bridge the divide that separates rural Alaska from the benefits of technological advances realized in urban areas. Public-private partnerships have been used successfully around the globe to facilitate information infrastructure development.

The task force shall be composed of 13 members.

- The Commissioner of Military and Veteran's Affairs or the Commissioner's designee.
- The Commissioner of Community and Economic Development or the Commissioner's designee.
- Three members of the legislature chosen by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate.
- Seven members at-large chosen jointly by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate.
- One member chosen by the President of the University of Alaska.

The task force is to begin its work on the first of June 2004 and terminate no later than the close of the first session of the 24th Legislature. The task force will develop a comprehensive package with recommendations including legislation, if necessary, to meet the needs of Alaska.

We respectfully request favorable consideration and support for HCR 32