

**Sponsor Statement**  
**HB 102**

This legislation focuses on the crime of vehicle theft and equal penalties associated with the taking of propelled vehicles without the owners' permission.

All terrain vehicles and snow machines are used in many parts of Alaska as the sole means of transportation for some Alaskans, and therefore, are more than merely recreational vehicles for those owners. Equal protection under the law demands that the theft of such vehicles be accorded the same treatment as provided for the principle transportation vehicles of other Alaskans.

HB 102 provides a new element in the commission of taking the propelled vehicle of another when the owner is deprived of the use of the vehicle for a specific period of time and incurs expenses as a result of the loss of use of the vehicle. It amends the definition for "all terrain vehicles", as well as, the definition for "watercraft".

I urge your support.