

# ALASKA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL

### Sponsor Statement for HB 111

## Injuries Resulting from Livestock Activities

House Bill 111 is the product of several meetings and work sessions with a group of 4-H members, a local veterinarian, and stable owners in the Tanana Valley. This bill is intended to give livestock owners and those associated with livestock activities extra protection from frivolous lawsuits.

This bill will recognize that a person assumes some risk when placing themselves in the vicinity of livestock. The livestock owner with the best of intentions cannot completely prevent accidents from happening. For example, a bee could come along and sting a horse, causing the horse to buck and throw a rider. Or, a bunny at a 4-H sponsored petting zoo could bite the finger of a small child feeding the bunny grain. Presently, both of these accidents could result in a lawsuit.

HB 111 will not protect the livestock owner who acts in a negligent manner. By reducing some of the liability, the expectation is this legislation will create an atmosphere for more livestock activities to occur within the state as insurance premiums become more favorable for livestock activities.

This piece of legislation is the work product of 4-H members statewide who will be following this legislation through the legislative process and participate in the passage of this bill. A 4-H member in Fairbanks wrote the bulk of this sponsor statement.