

Sponsor Statement for HB 294

Payment Date for Bills For Services

An Act requiring certain businesses to recognize postmark dates as the date of payment.

Released: January 15, 2002
Contact: Representative John Coghill's office at (907) 465-3719

Many Alaskans have experienced all too often the event of receiving a bill in the mail only to find that their payment due date is alarmingly near, with little room for the payment to be received on time.

Mail delays from the continental United States, as well as within Alaska, result in many payment notices arriving late. This leaves conscientious bill payers an extremely small window of time to send their payment in and have it received by the due date.

These situations are especially true in Alaska's more rural areas where the arrival and departure of mail freight is frequently delayed by weather and other circumstances.

Through no fault of their own, Alaskans often pay the price of mail delays with the addition of late fees and interest charges to their bills, as well as adverse affects on their credit ratings.

HB 194 is a straightforward piece of legislation that simply requires that payments that are received by a creditor be posted as of the date of the postmark, not the date that the payment is received.