

# Sponsor Statement for SB 115

## Extend Board of Storage Tank Assistance

### *An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Storage Tank Assistance.*

**Released:** March 21, 2001  
**Contact:** Senator Gene Therriault's office at (907) 465-6590

Under AS 46.03.360 the State Board of Storage Tank Assistance plays an integral role in promoting compliance throughout the State of Alaska with state and federal regulations related to installation and operation specifications for underground storage tanks as well as during the cleanup process when leaks and spills occur. By doing so, the Board is instrumental in safeguarding underground drinking water supplies from pollution and therefore protecting the public's health.

The Board membership is prescribed by statute and seats seven members. This particular board is charged with: (1) adopting regulations used by the Department of Environmental Conservation in determining which costs are eligible for financial assistance, (2) adopting regulations to be used by the Department to prioritize applications for financial assistance, (3) approving regulations specifying allowable technologies for testing, containment and cleanup, or corrective action prior to being adopted by the department, and (4) reviewing regulations proposed by the department that set a standard for the level of containment that is allowed to remain in soil or groundwater after cleanup of a release from or associated with an underground storage tank. The board has authority to settle disputes for financial assistance and may issue decisions that are binding on the owner, operator, and Department of Environmental Conservation. The board is also tasked with mediating disputes between owners, operators and the Department in regard to cleanup plans. In addition, the board may also hear disputes and grievances relating to delays or requirements associated with cleanup decisions (no further action letters) issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The State Board of Storage Tank Assistance is currently in its wind down year under AS 44.66.010(18), Legislative Oversight. If the Legislature does not act to extend the Board, it will cease to exist on June 30, 2002. Senate Bill 115 will extend the Board for an additional year to June 30, 2003.