

REPRESENTATIVE KEN McCARTY

HOUSE DISTRICT 13 — CHUGIAK/EAGLE RIVER/JBER



SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HOUSE BILL 277

“An Act relating to the renewal of occupational licenses”

House Bill 277 (HB277) is to provide a 60-day buffer of time between a professional licensing renewal and the expiration of the license.

Currently the renewal of occupational licenses avail a one minute transition between being fully licensed and operating illegally within the state. There is no buffer or transition time for the licensee or the department to avail a renewed license. There are occupational license holders who have appropriately submitted their renewal by mail or email yet for one reason or another the license was not processed in time. Licensees awaiting their license from occupational licensing continued to practice in good faith that their license was on its way to them. The current position of occupational licensing is that there is no “grace period” and such licensees will be investigated and pursued with the full extent of the law for practicing illegally.

The intent of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development is to promote business, secure integrity, and assure the well-being of Alaskans. The duty of occupational licensing is to verify and renew in a timely manner the license of viable candidates and licensees. The solution of HB277 is to avail a proactive buffer time whereby licensees and the department can renew licenses prior to expiration without threat of operating with an expired license.