



Representative Eric Croft **Sponsor Statement**

House Bill 16

“Consolidated Licensing for Assisted Living Care Facilities”

House Bill 16 seeks to eliminate a perceived conflict of interest in the Department of Administration (DOA), Division of Senior Services (DSS) and Division of Alaska Longevity Services. Consequently, DSS licenses Pioneers’ Homes of Alaska and DALs operates and budgets the Homes in addition to licensing other assisted care facilities. This has resulted in concern about the ability of DSS/DALS to objectively license/operate the Homes and other assisted living care facilities.

HB 16 will transfer licensing of all assisted living care facilities from DOA to the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Medical Assistance (DMA). Changing the location of the licensing function will remove any conflict of interest now present.

HB 16 will also streamline licensing of assisted living care facilities, in addition to the Pioneers’ Homes, by housing them in one division. Currently, the licenses of senior mental health and nursing home facilities are issued by DMA, while the licenses of assisted living facilities are issued by DSS/DALS. This bill will ensure all licensing for senior assisted living will be under one division and department, thus eliminating the need for two departments and divisions doing similar work.

HB 16 is based on one of the recommendations of the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.