



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

April 22, 2025

Submitted electronically via: House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

Co-Chairs Rep. Zack Fields and Rep. Carolyn Hall
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska



RE: Support for HB 161, Paid Sick Leave Exemption

Dear Co-Chairs Fields and Hall and Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska (RDC) writes in support of HB 161, which would implement reasonable exemptions and clarify the language associated with Ballot Measure 1, which was approved by Alaskan voters in 2024. This bill would address many of the concerns with Ballot Measure 1 raised by the Alaskan business community and would create a more balanced, business-friendly approach to employee leave.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit trade association founded in 1975. Our membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's fishing, tourism, forestry, mining, and oil and gas industries and includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

Among other things, HB 161 would exempt employers with fewer than 50 employees and seasonal employers from compliance burdens related to the paid sick leave mandate. Additionally, HB 161 would clarify the definition of paid sick leave and provide flexibility for workers to cash out unused sick leave. These changes will promote the paid sick leave policies intended by the passage of Ballot Measure 1, while avoiding a one-size-fits-all mandate that would harm Alaska's numerous small businesses.

In the interest of fostering a positive business climate in Alaska to support investment and sound regulatory policies for our business community, RDC urges you to move HB 161 out of House Labor and Commerce in a timely manner.



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Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Leila Kimbrell
Executive Director
Resource Development Council for Alaska
Celebrating 50 Years of Responsible Resource Development in Alaska



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(907) 276-0700

301 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Ste. 406, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

www.akrdc.org