

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SESSION

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## SENATOR BERT K. STEDMAN

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### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### Senate Bill 59

#### *“An Act relating to the operation of low-speed vehicles”*

In recent years, electric cars have progressed so they now come with all the necessary safety equipment as regular passenger vehicles. The use of low-speed electric vehicles has extended beyond golf communities and they are showing up in our towns. This new breed of electric car can help reduce carbon dioxide emissions and provide cheaper, environment-friendly transportation options for Alaskans.

Current Alaska law only allows electric cars to operate on roads with posted speed limits of 35 mph or less. In communities throughout Alaska, owners of electric cars are seeking access to more miles of road. If enacted, SB 59 will allow low-speed electric vehicles on roads with posted speed limits of 45 mph or less. This new access would be limited to communities not connected by road to Anchorage or Fairbanks, and with a maximum of 35,000 residents.

Larger communities may not want low-speed electric vehicles traveling on roads with high traffic volume for safety purposes. SB 59 allows municipalities to opt-in and expand access of low-speed vehicles at their discretion. However, many small communities throughout Alaska have few road miles and low traffic volume providing a suitable environment for electric cars. SB 59 will give individual communities the opportunity to increase electric car usage if they so choose.

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#### DISTRICT A

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