

Satellite TV will stay, expand

JUNEAU--The House Special Committee on Telecommunications has passed two bills which would establish permanent satellite communications to 176 communities. The legislation, developed over a year, would appropriate \$10.6 million to cover the expansion of television capacity to 176 locations. Five urban locations and 23 rural communities are now served by a satellite demonstration project. The second bill would establish a non-profit satellite users association to get satellite time on a cost-sharing basis. Any person, business or government agency would be eligible to belong to the association. This includes commercial and cable broadcasters. The legislation provides that the state would subsidize the first year of the association operation. But the subsidy would decrease to zero over a five year period. The members of the association would then share the entire cost.