

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON
SENATE DISTRICT G

Sponsor Statement: Senate Bill 40

Hispanic Heritage Month

Senate Bill 40 seeks to officially designate September 15th through October 15th as Hispanic Heritage Month in Alaska State Statute.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the cultural tapestry that Hispanic and Latino Americans have woven into the fabric of our nation. This period commemorates the independence of several Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Mexico, which gained independence on September 15, 1821.

While Alaska may seem distant from the heart of Latin America, the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Alaskans to our state's history, culture, and economy are undeniable. From pioneers and settlers to artists, educators, and business leaders, Hispanic and Latino individuals have made significant impacts in every corner of our state.

By officially recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month, we honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire future generations. This designation will create a greater understanding and appreciation of Hispanic and Latino cultures, promote diversity, and strengthen the bonds that unite us as Alaskans.