

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION

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SENATOR MIA COSTELLO SENATE DISTRICT K

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SPONSOR STATEMENT Senate Bill 207

"An Act transferring duties among departments in the executive branch of state government; relating to the duties of departments and commissioners in the executive branch; relating to the duties of the Office of the Governor; relating to state boards and commissions; and providing for an effective date."

Senate Bill 207 seeks to elevate the marketing opportunities of the State of Alaska by transferring the component divisions, offices, and programs of the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development into other executive branch departments and the Office of the Governor.

The Department's non-lending economic development programs and marketing programs would be housed in the Office of the Governor. The rationale is to heighten the profile of the state's economic development efforts and underline the role of the Governor as the state's chief economic booster.

Many of the other functions of the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development would be moved under the auspices of the Department of Revenue. Along with the state's development lending programs, this would include all independent and quasi-judicial agencies, and oversight of all functions relating to banking, securities, corporation and business regulation, professional licensing, insurance, and promoting strong communities.

As our society changes, it is important that our government evolve alongside it. Alaska's current economic and fiscal difficulties pose a challenge, but also an opportunity to re-evaluate the tasks and priorities of our state government. Senate Bill 207 serves as a starting point for a discussion on potential ways our government agencies can be adjusted to better serve all Alaskans.

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