

Alaska State Legislature

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Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

Sponsor Statement

SB 90 – Board of Public Accountancy Secretary

In 2010, the Alaska State Legislature unanimously passed legislation that, among other things, created an Executive Secretary position for the Alaska Board of Public Accountancy. Because the Board is charged with ensuring that appropriate standards of accounting competency and practice are established and enforced in the state, a capable and qualified Executive Secretary is necessary to protect the public interest. Setting the Executive Secretary pay at Range 23 will ensure that this newly created position is paid at a rate comparable to other states and commensurate with the requirements of the job.

The pay range was developed based on market standards for the accounting industry and is the range supported by the Alaska Board of Public Accountancy, the Alaska Society of Certified Public Accountants, and CPAs throughout the state. As this position is paid for directly by the licensing fees of CPAs—not the State—their wide support signals that a Range 23 is the appropriate pay for the position. Indeed, the Range 23 money is already in the current budget, having been appropriated at the time the authorizing legislation passed.

In January 2011 the Department of Administration classified this position as a Range 19. Such a pay range is not adequate considering the expertise and leadership abilities required by the position. Enforcement cases especially can be exceedingly complex, requiring staff to have broad professional knowledge, experience and leadership skills.

The Board believes it has been hampered in the past by lack of capable staff. It is crucial that the Board be able to recruit and retain an Executive Secretary with the relevant knowledge and leadership ability that will allow the Board to fulfill its mission. Senate Bill 90 would satisfy that need by setting the Executive Secretary's pay range at the appropriate, competitive level.