

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives



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SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 289 - EXECUTIVE ETHICS: LEGAL FEES/FAMILY TRAVEL

HB 289 sets forth in statute the substance of the Attorney General's proposed regulations establishing standards for (1) reimbursement of legal fees and costs for any executive branch employees accused of ethical violations, and (2) payment of travel expenses for the families of only the governor and lieutenant governor. It also cures several potential problems in the proposed regulations to (1) require that the employee be *exonerated* of the charges to attain reimbursement, (2) limit reimbursement to charges filed *after* the effective date of the Act (to clarify that reimbursement cannot be claimed by officials charged before this Act passed), and (3) require that the attorneys fees be reasonable in amount and reasonably incurred. The rules are carefully drafted to limit the circumstances under which family members of the governor and lieutenant governor can recover their travel costs.

Any questions? Please contact my legislative aide, Gretchen Staff, at 465-4940.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 289.