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SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

HB 289 - EXECUTIVE ETHICS: LEGAL FEES/FAMILY TRAVEL

Sec. 1. Deletes definition of “for partisan political purposes.” This definition section is moved to section 3 on page 3, lines 22-27.

Sec. 2. Conforming amendment.

Sec. 3. Adds new subsections. Proposed subsection (g) sets forth the rules covering the payment of travel costs for spouses and children of the governor and lieutenant governor. First, it may not be for a partisan political purpose. Second, the state must be repaid the actual costs of transportation or the reasonable cost if the actual cost cannot be determined. The state need not be reimbursed if:

- (a) the family member’s presence is required for official state action, or
- (b) the event is state-sponsored and the person’s attendance is customary, or
- (c) the family member is attending as an official representative of the state, or
- (d) the family member is invited by the event sponsor before they receive transportation, the invitation and the person’s attendance are customary, the event is related to important state issues, and the governor or lieutenant governor attend.

Proposed subsection (h), discussed above, defines the term “partisan political purpose.”

Sec. 4. Creates an exception to AS 39.52.120 by *allowing* (but not requiring) a state agency to pay the reasonable costs of private legal representation relating to the defense of an ethics complaint by a person accused of an ethics violation while employed with the state. Payment by the state is contingent upon exoneration, which is defined as either dismissed of the complaint or resolved solely by preventative action to avoid future violations. Reasonable fees are defined to require that they be reasonably incurred to defend against the charges.

Sec. 5. Makes Sec. 4 of the bill applicable only to ethics complaints filed on or after the effective date of the bill.