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Senator Lesil McGuire

Sponsor Statement for Senate Bill 211

“An Act relating to the limitation period to commence a false claims action; relating to recovery for false claims for state or municipal funds; and amending Rules 4, 24, and 46, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure.”

The Alaska False Claims Act, SB 211, gives private citizens the ability to fight false or fraudulent claims for state money. Private citizens who become aware of someone making false claims for tax benefits, Medicaid reimbursement, or other state or municipal resources can take a case to court. If the case is won, the citizen who identified the fraud is awarded a percentage of the proceeds.

By passing The Alaska False Claims Act, Alaska joins at least 29 other states and the federal government in increasing its ability to combat fraud. The federal false claims act has resulted in \$39 billion in settlements and judgements since 1986, with \$4 billion of that going to private citizens who identified the fraud.

The Alaska False Claims Act provides Alaska a powerful tool to fight fraudulent use of government money by giving individual Alaskans greater ability to bring that fraud to light.