

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Affairs Committee
Co-Chair

Education

Fisheries

Joint Armed Services

Judiciary
Vice-Chair

REPRESENTATIVE ZACH FANSLER DISTRICT 38

SPONSOR STATEMENT HOUSE BILL 106

“An Act allowing appropriations to the civil legal services fund from court filing fees.”

This bill will safeguard Alaskans’ access to the civil justice system by creating a stable and sustainable mechanism for funding the Alaska Legal Services Corporation, protecting those who cannot afford to hire an attorney of their own. It allows the Legislature to appropriate up to 25 percent of filing fees paid to the Alaska Court System during the previous fiscal year into the already existing Civil Legal Services Fund.

The Alaska Legal Services Corporation—established in 1967—is a nonprofit charitable 501(c)(3), whose funding comes from a variety of state, federal, and private sources.

Alaska Legal Services Corporation endeavors to serve a growing number of eligible applicants. Since 1984, the number of Alaskans who qualified for legal services has more than doubled, from 41,000 to over 100,000.

Yet currently, the state’s contribution to The Alaska Legal Services Corporation is only a fraction of what it was 30 years ago. House Bill 106 aims to stabilize The Alaska Legal Services Corporation funding and help ensure that civil legal aid is available to all Alaskans, not just the few who can afford it.