



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Judiciary Committee

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Rep. David Eastman
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House Bill 104 Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to collecting information about civil litigation by the Alaska Judicial Council; repealing Rule 41(a)(3), Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rules 511(c) and (e), Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure; and providing for an effective date."

House Bill 104 eliminates the automatic reporting of information about civil case settlements currently required by law. This bill follows the advice of the Alaska Judicial Council, which has recommended that the legislature eliminate this requirement.

Many attorneys and civil litigants do not comply with the civil case settlement reporting requirement. Based on court system data about civil cases closed in FY13, the Council estimates that it should have received information on about 6,113 cases. During FY13, however, the Council received information on only 1,086 cases. The data provided to the Council is insufficient for meaningful analysis, and the Council does not believe it would be prudent to continue to issue reports on insufficient civil case settlement data.

It is part of the job of the legislature to eliminate waste and to make government more effective. Passing House Bill 104 would save money and time by freeing litigants from an outdated requirement to submit data that the Alaska Judicial Council should not be required to analyze. Discarding unnecessary data collection requirements is a reasonable way to achieve cost-savings and streamline government.