



Alaska State Legislature

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House Bill 106 Sponsor Statement

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

House Bill 106 safeguards low-income Alaskans’ access to the civil justice system by creating a stable and sustainable mechanism for funding the Alaska Legal Services Corporation. 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 not a state agency but is instead a nonprofit charitable 501(c)(3), whose funding comes from a variety of state, federal, and private sources.

The Alaska Legal Services Corporation strives to serve a growing number of low-income applicants. Since 1984, the number of Alaskans eligible 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.