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SPONSOR STATEMENT
HB 48

"An Act removing from the exempt service of the state persons who are employed in a professional capacity to make a temporary or special inquiry, study, or examination as authorized by the governor and including those persons in the partially exempt service of the state."

AS 39.25.110(9) was supposed to allow the governor to appoint someone for some "temporary and special inquiry". Because they are temporary, exempts do not get PERS or regular State leave, health insurance or other State benefits. However, the statute has not been used in that manner. It has instead been used to establish positions without the intent of the positions being temporary, which would then entitle employees to PERS and all other benefits.

The purpose of HB 48 is to discontinue the historical practice by the Executive Branch of using AS 39.25.110(9) to unilaterally establish highly paid executive level temporary exempt positions that have no salary limits. There are positions established many years ago using this statute that still exist today. Some are unbudgeted and do not appear in agency position counts. Several attempts have been made to obtain a complete list of these positions and current salary levels, but these attempts have been unsuccessful.

HB 48 is intended to eliminate the establishment of "temporary exempt" positions and instead place these positions in the partially exempt service. Persons may be "appointed" to partially exempt positions, however, they will be subject to salary limits like all other state employees. HB 48 will force the administration to be more transparent and allow all employees to be treated fairly.

I would appreciate your support.