



SENATOR JESSE KIEHL

Sponsor Statement
Sponsor Substitute Senate Bill 121

Sponsor Substitute Senate Bill 121 fixes a contradiction in Alaska law so the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (T&H) can keep administering the tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program in Southeast.

AS 47.27.070(a) lists the organizations qualified to run TANF, including T&H. But subsection (c) of the same law says only “nonprofits” may run TANF. As a tribal government, T&H is not a non-profit. This contradiction endangers T&H’s ability to keep running the program.

T&H has successfully run TANF for almost two decades. Taking the contradiction out of the law will let the tribe continue its good work for Alaskans in need.