



## REPRESENTATIVE JEREMY T. BYNUM

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METLAKATLA, COFFMAN COVE, WHALE PASS, & HYDER

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### SECTIONAL ANALYSIS HOUSE BILL NO. 253 – VERSION N

February 20, 2026

**Section 1.** Amends AS 16.10.500 relating to the declaration of policy for the fisheries enhancement loan program. This section updates and clarifies the state’s policy governing the fisheries enhancement loan program. The section expands loan eligibility to include federally recognized tribal organizations that operate fish hatcheries on an Indian reservation or under a federal permit, in addition to qualified regional associations.

**Section 2.** Amends AS 16.10.510 relating to the powers and duties of the commissioner. This section updates the commissioner’s authority under the fisheries enhancement loan program to explicitly include eligible tribal organizations alongside qualified regional associations and approved local nonprofit corporations. Conforming changes ensure tribal organizations are treated consistently throughout the statute, while retaining existing provisions.

**Section 3.** Amends AS 16.10.520(a) relating to loan limits. This section updates the loan limit provisions of the fisheries enhancement loan program to reflect the inclusion of eligible tribal organizations as borrowers. The section further clarifies that loans for other nonprofit hatchery corporation or tribal organization projects remain capped at \$1,000,000.

**Section 4.** Establishes an effective date of July 1, 2026.