

## HB 344: Establishing the Opioid Litigation Settlement Fund

# History & Overview

Representative Julie Coulombe



---

# Nationwide Settlements

## Background

In response to the opioid epidemic, the state of Alaska joined the 2021 and 2022 nationwide lawsuits against various manufacturers and distributors.

The lawsuits alleged that companies:

- Misled doctors and patients about the risks of opioids
  - Failed to detect and report suspicious orders and diversion of prescription opioids
-

---

# Nationwide Settlements

## Outcome

- Alaska will receive approximately \$1.8 million in settlement payments over multiple years
  - At least 85% of settlement funds must be used for opioid abatement efforts
    - Treatment and recovery services
    - Prevention programs
    - Community response efforts
  - The settlements also require changes in how defendants monitor opioid distribution.
-

---

# Audit Finding 2024-001

## Key Findings

The Legislative Audit identified errors in opioid settlement funds reporting caused by:

- Lack of established procedures
- Absence of a separate fund to track settlement revenues

Recommendation:

Create a separate account to track and manage opioid settlement resources.

---

---

# HB 344: Opioid Settlement Fund

## Legislative Intent and Goals

- Respond to the Legislative Audit recommendation
- Improve transparency and financial tracking
- Ensure settlement funds are used for opioid abatement efforts in Alaska

## Effect

- Settlement funds to be deposited into one account
  - Clear tracking of settlement payments
  - Use of funds for opioid remediation activities is consistent with settlement agreements
-

---

# Questions

Representative Julie Coulombe

[rep.julie.coulombe@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.julie.coulombe@akleg.gov)

---