



Senate Bill 169 – Welcoming Alaska Office Sectional Analysis – Version G

Section 1 – Amends AS 23.05 to add several new sections.

AS 23.05.131 establishes the Welcoming Alaska Office within the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The office shall provide services to new immigrants and newcomers, including employment information. The office will work to reduce licensing and other employment barriers. The office will also develop and implement a new statewide strategy to support businesses in recruiting and retaining workers who are new immigrants and newcomers.

Subsections under AS 23.05.131 allow the Welcoming Alaska Office to offer grants to support the social integration of new immigrants and newcomers, implement strategies and programs to make the state more welcoming, and operate a toll-free hotline for service referrals.

AS 23.05.132 requires each department in the state government to designate liaisons to work with the Welcoming Alaska Office on issues impacting newcomers and new Americans.

AS 23.05.133 establishes the nine-member Welcoming Alaska Advisory Committee to assist with developing recommendations to ensure state programs are accessible and responsive to the needs of new immigrants and newcomers.

AS 23.05.134 authorizes the Welcoming Alaska Office to establish a center that provides virtual and in-person information and assistance to new immigrants and newcomers. Services available through the Welcoming Alaska Center would include English and Alaska Native language instruction, employment services, and assistance with accessing government programs and community services.

AS 23.05.135 defines “newcomer” as an individual who moved to the state from another state in the preceding 36 months. “New immigrant” is defined as an individual, or the



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Senator Löki Gale Tobin
Education Committee Chair

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child of an individual who has arrived, or will arrive, in the state as an immigrant or refugee.

Section 2 – Amends AS 39.25.120 to add the Executive Director of the Welcoming Alaska Office to the list of positions that are partially exempt. A person holding a position in the partially exempt service is not required to complete an assessment and is not eligible for a hearing before the personnel board in the event of dismissal, demotion, or suspension.

Section 3 – Repeals AS 23.05.125, which is the statute that created the Office of Citizenship Assistance in 2004.

Section 4 – Adds a new section to the uncodified law requiring the Welcoming Alaska Office to conduct a study to determine immigration opportunities in the State of Alaska. The report must also establish goals for the office and develop performance indicators to measure the office's progress. The study must include input from employers. The report must be submitted to the Alaska House of Representatives by July 1, 2027.

Section 5 – Implements an effective date of July 1, 2026.