

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE FINANCE
Operating Budget Co-Chair



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REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

HB23: Applicability, Alaska State Commission for Human Rights

For the House Labor and Commerce Committee

Summary of Changes: Version A to Version I

1. Changes the name of the State Commission for Human Rights to the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights. (Sec. 1)
2. Adds a requirement that the governor can only remove a commissioner for cause. Cause could include incompetence, neglect, misconduct, or public or private statements that undermine the commission's work. In current law, a commissioner can be removed for any reason. (Sec. 2)
3. Changes the timing and method of the commission's annual report to the legislature. Instead of the week before convening, the report would be due on November 15. Also, the report could be delivered electronically instead of requiring paper copies. (Sec. 3)
4. Adds a defense against a discrimination claim if the employer is a religious organization and the employee is hired for a religious purpose. (Sec. 4)
5. Changes the definition of "employer" in the commission's enabling statutes to include all employers except for nonprofit social and fraternal organizations. The change broadens coverage to employees of other nonprofit employers. (Sec. 7)
6. Makes conforming changes in various statutes to reflect the commission's name change in Sec. 1. (Sec. 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11).