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## **SB 99 Sponsor Statement**

### **CPA AS PRIVATE PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATORS**

“An Act relating to private professional conservators; and providing for an effective date.”

Alaska is currently facing a growing population of elderly citizens who will require specialized services as they age. One of these specialized services that will likely be increasingly required is conservatorships. While many elderly citizens require the care provided by a full guardianship arrangement, some only need assistance with managing their finances. These are ideal clients for a conservatorship arrangement that would help them manage their finances while maintaining some independence and freedom. Many of these potential clients may not have the funds to hire a private professional conservator, but the ones that do have such an ability would be best served by a competent private professional conservator.

Under current statutes, individuals seeking to become private professional conservators must obtain and maintain a certification from a national guardianship organization. This certification is relevant to those seeking to become guardians but has far less relevance for someone seeking to become a conservator. This bill would not remove the guardianship certification but would instead create a second pathway to becoming a private professional conservator.

Certified public accountants are trained in financial management and ethical standards which is an ideal background for conservators. This bill will allow CPAs to more easily become licensed conservators and remove the burden of maintaining a guardianship certification in addition their CPA license. It creates a direct path for certified public accountants to apply for a private professional conservator license while still maintaining the guardianship certification route for non-CPAs who wish to become conservators.

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