

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Session: January – April
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Official Business

Sponsor Statement **HB 147 – Board of Public Accountancy Secretary**

In 2010, the Alaska State Legislature unanimously passed a bill creating an Executive Secretary position on the Alaska Board of Public Accountancy. As the Board is charged with ensuring that appropriate standards of accounting competency and practice are established and enforced in the state, a capable and qualified Executive Secretary is necessary to protecting the public interest. Setting the Executive Secretary pay at Range 23 will ensure that this newly created position has a pay rate that is competitive with other states and commensurate with the requirements of the job.

A January 2011 draft determination by the Department of Administration for the salary range of the Executive Secretary has been issued at a Range 19. Such a pay range is not adequate considering the expertise and leadership abilities required by the position. The body of knowledge used by Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) is vast, technical, and comprehensive. Enforcement cases can be exceedingly complex, thereby requiring staff with a significant level of education, professional knowledge, and experience. A pay range of 23 will attract candidates with the requisite skills for the position.

In the legislation that created the Executive Secretary, the estimate of costs for the new position were developed using a Range 23. Indeed, the fiscal note for the legislation that passed unanimously in 2010 called for a Range 23. The pay range was developed based on market standards for the accounting industry and is the range supported by the Alaska Board of Public Accountancy, the Alaska Society of CPAs, and CPAs throughout the state. As this position is paid for directly by the licensing fees of CPAs statewide – not the State – their wide support signals the recognition that a Range 23 is the appropriate pay for the position.

In the past, the Board has been hampered by lack of staff able to monitor the complex enforcement cases it encounters. It is critical that the Board be able to recruit and retain an Executive Secretary with the relevant knowledge and leadership ability that will allow the Board to fulfill its mission. Legislation setting the pay of the Executive Secretary at Range 23 is proposed with this in mind.