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**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 259(FIN)
VERSION R****COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN STATE EMPLOYEES****Sponsor Statement**

"An Act relating to the basic salary schedule for compensation of state employees; relating to the salary of the chief administrative law judge; and providing for an effective date."

Among the provisions of House Bill 226 (2022) was a section stipulating that cost-of-living increases negotiated by the supervisory bargaining unit would apply to certain government employees not covered by a bargaining unit. Unfortunately, the Department of Law argued that the bill language doesn't clearly allow the Department of Administration to implement these salary changes for some employees without additional legislative action, effectively making the provision moot.

Senate Bill 259 clarifies and confirms the original intent by providing clear authority to the Department of Administration for adjusting salaries, ensuring all employees receive fair and equal treatment. This change is crucial for maintaining a motivated and effective workforce and streamlines the process of setting salaries within the government budget.

SB 259 also amends the statutory limitation on the pay "step" level for the Chief Administrative Law Judge in the Department of Administration. Currently, this Range 27 position cannot be paid beyond step "F" which inhibits the State of Alaska's ability to recruit and retain a person to serve in this position; the CS removes that limitation. The Chief Administrative Law Judge is responsible for promoting the delivery of high quality, fair, efficient, and independent administrative adjudication statewide. The position is currently vacant.

SB 259 would impact approximately 2,800 exempt and partially exempt employees in the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches. Those employees are exempt from certain provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, such as minimum wage and overtime pay requirements.