



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Labor and  
Workforce Development**

Labor Standards and Safety Division  
Office of the Director

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April 9, 2025

The Honorable Andrew Gray  
Chair, House Judiciary  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 120  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Gray,

Thank you for inviting the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to House Judiciary on April 2, 2025, to give a presentation on Wage and Hour: Unpaid Wage Process for HB 97, Org. Retail Theft/Fund; Marketplace Sales Tax. This letter completes the response to questions and requests for follow-up information from the hearing.

- 1. What was the reason for the decline in wage claims in the past few years (Slide 7, Wage Claim Outcomes)? Also, provide wage claim numbers for prior years (2017, 2018, 2019).**

A policy change contributed to the decrease in wage claim numbers. Prior to 2022, Wage and Hour processed many more claims since the policy required anyone seeking Wage and Hour services to file a claim. Since 2022, Wage and Hour has made efforts to resolve issues reported to our office by proactively reaching out to mediate conflicts and find resolution before an employee filed a claim. This process of coaching employers to compliance required fewer resources and provided far faster results for employees.

2017 – 355 wage claims

2018 – 258 wage claims

2019 – 252 wage claims

- 2. The office phone number needs to be prominent at the top of the Wage and Hour main page of the website.**

The Wage and Hour phone number has been placed near the top of the webpage ([Wage and Hour, Alaska Department of Labor](#)) with the following language: To ask questions or to speak to a Wage and Hours investigator call: (907) 269-4900.

- 3. Individuals need access to a “Tip Line” that is prominent on the main page of the Wage and Hour website.**

Chair Gray  
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We are looking into a "Tip Line" that can be used for all of Labor Standards & Safety. We hope to have that available as soon as possible.

Please contact my office if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Applegate  
Chief Investigator, Labor Standards and Safety Division

cc: Jordan Shilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office