



# Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

Senate District P

## **SB 117 State Commission for Civil Rights**

### **Sectional Analysis**

*"An Act renaming the State Commission for Human Rights the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; relating to removal of commissioners of the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; relating to reports from the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; relating to the definition of 'employer' for the purposes of the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights; and relating to local civil rights commissions."*

Sec. 1 Changes the name of the Commission to the Alaska State Commission for Civil Rights.

Sec. 2 Adds a new subsection to the statute governing appointments to the commission, stipulating 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.

Sec. 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. 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. 5 Conforming language to the change in Sec. 1, allowing municipal civil rights commissions.

Sec. 6 Conforming language to the change in Sec. 1, in the definition of "commission" in the enabling statutes.

Sec. 7 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. 8 Conforming language to the change in Sec. 1, describing the role of the executive director.

Sec. 9 Conforming language to the change in Sec. 1, describing referrals from the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics to the commission.

Sec. 10 Conforming language to the change in Sec. 1, regarding the list of public officials required to make financial disclosures.

Sec. 11 Conforming language to the change in Sec. 1, regarding applicability of the Administrative Procedures Act.