

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Sponsor Statement

HB 355

The primary purpose of the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) is to ensure compliance with campaign donation restrictions, disclose how campaigns are funded, and report how those funds are spent. HB 355 “APOC: Membership,” is intended to ensure APOC members have the requisite experience filing disclosures and other reports, to promote compliance, understand the day-to-day idiosyncrasies of modern campaigns, and recognize their real-life consequences.

Today, virtually all boards and commissions require at least some members to possess background experience with the issues they govern. Hairdressers, tattoo artists, doctors, and lawyers in Alaska are governed by people who understand their occupations. APOC should be no different.

HB 355 would change the membership of APOC by requiring all the governor’s appointees to have extensive campaign experience with APOC filing. Members experienced in maintaining pertinent records, filing campaign disclosures, and managing bank accounts will help APOC better serve its constituency.

To facilitate these new requirements, HB 355 recognizes the need for a transition period and allows for a staggered transition period until the new requirements can be met.

I urge your support of HB 355.