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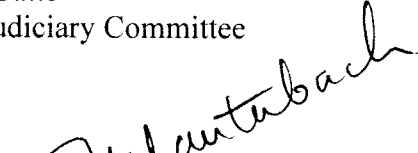
MEMORANDUM

February 18, 2011

SUBJECT: Review of Proposed Regulations by the Legislative Affairs Agency
(Work Order No. 27-LS0559\A)

TO: Representative Carl Gatto
Chair of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Terri Lauterbach
Legislative Counsel



Enclosed is a draft of a bill you requested to "fix some flaws" in AS 24.20.105, as we discussed after the meeting of the Administrative Regulation Review Committee (ARRC) on Tuesday.¹

Section 1. This section of the bill accomplishes several things:

(1) The new language on page 1 allows the reviewing attorney in LAA to consult with the prime sponsor of the relevant bill if the attorney is reviewing proposed regulations that implement newly enacted legislation. You only asked specifically for the prime sponsor to get copies of memos denoting possible legal flaws determined in these kinds of reviews, but I thought it was probably in keeping with your goal to also add this consultation aspect as well. Let me know if I erred in this regard and I can remove the language. Also, please note that I have limited this consultation requirement to situations when the prime sponsor is still a member of the legislature. In addition to the logistics that may be difficult when the prime sponsor is no longer a member, it seems to me in keeping with the confidential nature of these reviews that only sitting legislators be included in the review process under AS 24.20.105.

(2) The first two lines on page 2 allow LAA review memos to be sent to a standing committee or to the Legislative Council if they have requested a review of some proposed regulations because of their "major policy implications." Under current law,

¹ Although I drafted the enclosed bill, Lisa Kirsch's name appears in the upper right-hand corner of page 1. This has been done so that, if you introduce the bill, legislators and staff will have a full-time attorney to call with questions or amendments related to the bill. As I mentioned at the ARRC meeting, I am only half-time. Lisa Kirsch reviewed proposed regulations under AS 24.20.105 for most of the past three years, and is knowledgeable about the issues addressed in this bill draft. Feel free to call either one of us about the draft.

Representative Carl Gatto

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these entities can request a review and that request is given priority status under AS 24.20.105(b)(2), but the law, through an oversight in the original legislation, does not allow them to get the memo that could result from the review. Current law allows these memos to go only to the Department of Law, the state agency proposing the regulations, the ARRC, the senate president, and the speaker of the house. (See AS 24.20.105(e) and the restriction on LAA's disclosure under AS 24.20.105(g).)

(3) Lines 3 - 7 on page 2 allow LAA review memos to be sent to the prime sponsor of the relevant legislation if a review of proposed regulations that implement newly enacted legislation shows legal problems of the type described in AS 24.20.105(d). As with the consultation requirement for prime sponsors described above in (1), I have limited this memo-sharing requirement to prime sponsors who are still sitting legislators.

(4) Lines 7 - 10 on page 2 require LAA to communicate to a standing committee or the Legislative Council the results of a review that was requested by either of them in situations where the reviewer has not found legal flaws. Currently, AS 24.20.105 only allows LAA to communicate with respect to reviews where legal flaws are perceived, and that makes sense with respect to the vast number of reviews, as the relevant entities would normally be interested only if the reviewing attorney sees problems. However, with respect to a review requested under AS 24.20.105(b)(2), it seems to me that it would make sense for LAA to be able to respond that a review has been completed but that no problems were found. I have deliberately not required this communication to be in writing so that a phone call could suffice; the requester, of course, could always request that the "no problems" response be in writing.

Sec. 2. This section clarifies that the new provisions of section 1 apply to any reviews ongoing in LAA at the time the bill takes effect even if the notice of proposed regulations was issued before the effective date of the bill.

Sec. 3. This section gives the bill an immediate effective date. There are no impediments I can think of that would keep LAA from immediately being able to implement any of the new provisions of section 1.

TML:LMK:ljw

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Enclosure