



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 311

"An Act relating to certain information filed with the Alaska Public Offices Commission; and providing for an effective date."

The Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) has an important mission, part of which is ensuring accountability between elected officials and the public. Open and transparent campaign finance reporting enables voters to make informed decisions and is a critical step in establishing and maintaining credibility between elected officials and the people. It is paramount that the public has timely access to accurate information. It is equally important that this is not accomplished in a way that is so restrictive that any Alaskan is ever discouraged or prohibited from seeking public office

House Bill 311 establishes clear guidelines allowing each candidate to provide APOC the most accurate, timely information possible. APOC can encourage candidates to use their online reporting system; however, candidates would also be able to upload an electronic file in a format that meets APOC's technical requirements. APOC would import those files into its database, in an efficient process that eliminates the chance of data re-entry errors. House Bill 311 also allows the option of paper filing for Alaskans who want to serve in public office, but may not have access to a computer or a reliable Internet connection.

Our state is proud to have a citizen legislature, where any Alaskan can stand for election. House Bill 311 allows every candidate to reasonably comply with Alaska's rigorous campaign finance reporting laws in the most accurate and efficient way possible, protecting the public's rights to that information.