

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Interim – May-December:*  
**1500 W. Benson Blvd.**  
**Anchorage, AK 99503**  
**907-269-0216**  
**907-269-0218 (fax)**



*Session – January-April:*  
**State Capitol, Rm. 13**  
**Juneau, AK 99801**  
**907-465-4998**  
**907-465-4419 (fax)**

## Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

[Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov)

### SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HB 201

*An Act relating to legal representation of public officers in ethics complaints*

House Bill 201 will protect Alaskans' faith in their state government while at the same time protecting executive branch officials from unfair or frivolous ethics complaints. This legislation is in response to proposed regulations by the Attorney General, that would permit him to defend the Governor or the Lt. Governor against ethics complaints if he found, in his sole discretion, that such a defense would be in the State's best interest. The current regulations permit the State to reimburse the Governor or Lt. Governor for private legal expenses incurred in SUCCESSFULLY defending an ethics complaint.

This bill would basically put the current regulations into statute. A public officer or former public officer who is the subject of a complaint filed under this chapter may request and accept from an agency reimbursement of reasonable legal expenses that the officer incurs to defend against the complaint. A public officer or former public officer who accepts reimbursement under this section shall promptly repay all money received if the officer is not exonerated of all violations of this chapter alleged in the complaint.

To be perfectly clear this bill is not a criticism of our current Governor or Lt. Governor. Moreover, a public official, acting ethically, should not be subject to personal liability. The proposed regulations, however, permit any official, even one who has acted unethically, to receive the benefit of legal representation. That is not right.

I urge my colleagues in the Legislature to join me in supporting HB 201.