

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

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Sponsor Statement | HB 159

House Bill 159 (HB 159) increases the financial support repayment for WWAMI program participants who do not return to the state from 50% to 100%.

Alaska, along with Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Wyoming are in the cooperative WWAMI program administered through the University of Washington School of Medicine. WWAMI's goal is to make medical education more accessible to students in northwestern states that lack medical schools and have a demand for additional physicians.

Currently, if a WWAMI participant does not return to the state and actively engage in professional practice, she or he must repay 50% of the financial support received plus interest. HB 159 increases that figure to 100%.