

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senator Mia Costello District K – West Anchorage

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Chris Tuck
Chair, Legislative Budget and Audit
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Tuck and members of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee:

I ask for your consideration in approving an audit of Alaska State Commission for Human Rights.

As background, the commission is a quasi-judicial agency. The Attorney General serves as legal counsel. The board works to eliminate and prevent discrimination in employment, in practices by the state or its political subdivisions, in credit and financing practices, in places of public accommodation, and in the sale, lease or rental of real property; to process complaints from the public, hold hearings and order appropriate relief, and make an overall assessment, at least every three years of the progress toward equal employment opportunity by every state department. Results of the assessment shall be included in the annual report made under AS 18.80.150.

In response to complaints concerning the commission's investigative process, I request an audit include the following objectives covering the previous three calendar years beginning from the date the Division of Legislative Audit starts the audit:

1. Determine whether the commission is investigating complaints timely.
2. Determine how many and what type of complaints are investigated; how many days it takes to resolve complaints, and the reasons for delayed resolutions.
3. Determine whether the commission is investigating complaints in accordance with the internal policy of "promptly" as outlined in State law that requires the commission to *"informally investigate the matters set out in a filed complaint, promptly and impartially."*
4. Gain an understanding and report on the commission's work sharing agreement with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
5. Identify and report the steps taken by the commission *"to seek out and eradicate discrimination"*.
6. Determine the current status of the prior audit recommendations.

Thank you for considering this request. Please don't hesitate to contact me or Tom Wright of my staff if you need further information or have questions regarding the proposed audit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mia Costello".

Senator Mia Costello
Senate District K

District K – West Anchorage