

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

EDUCATION

ETHICS

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

RULES

WORLD TRADE



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Members Legislative Council; Legislative Budget & Audit Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 66

Version: 32-LS0410\A

As outlined by state statute, the Alaska Legislative Council has the essential role of conducting the legislature's business when the legislature is not in session, while the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee plays a pivotal role in managing state finances and expenditures.

It is clear the legislative intent of committee member representation on these decisive standing committees is meant to be equitable and fair. Alaska State Statute establishes membership on Legislative Council and Legislative Budget and Audit to include "at least one member from each of the two major political parties of each house;" however, the Alaska legislature has a long history of coalition caucuses and nonpartisan legislators. The unfortunate consequence is that organized legislative minority representation has been long been denied from these critical standing committees. Caucuses form around a vision they have for Alaska. The minority caucuses should not have their vision for Alaska unrepresented on these committees.

Senate Bill 66 seeks to clarify the long-standing intent of fair representation on these powerful standing committees by requiring at least one member of the minority party of each house. By this change, we can ensure that all of Alaska is represented fairly on Legislative Council and Legislative Budget and Audit.