

Alaska State Legislature

Legislative Affairs Agency

Office of the Executive Director


Terry Miller Legislative Office Building, Room 217

Mailing Address: State Capitol, Rm. 3 Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 Phone (907) 465-3800 Fax (907) 465-3234



MEMORANDUM

TO: Rep. Sara Hannan
Legislative Council Chair

FROM: Jessica Geary 
Executive Director

DATE: August 16, 2022

SUBJECT: Office of Victims' Rights Attorney Compensation

I'm writing regarding an unfortunate situation related to HB 226 (Pay Increases for Certain State Employees). The bill language and related fiscal note inadvertently left out the Office of Victims' Rights (OVR), an office of the Legislature that includes four attorney positions; this means that when the bill becomes effective on October 31, 2022, the OVR attorneys will receive 15% less base salary than any other State of Alaska attorney. As you might imagine, this is demoralizing and will affect retention and recruitment, especially with the upcoming retirement of the Chief Victims' Rights Advocate who leads the agency.

The Office of Victims' Rights budget allocation is within the Legislative Council appropriation and is currently unable to cover a salary increase. I have consulted with Legal Services Director Megan Wallace and HR Manager Skiff Lobaugh to offer the following proposal: Legislative Council could (1) authorize a transfer of funds (from an appropriation to be determined) to cover the FY23 estimated increase of \$75,000; (2) place the affected attorneys on the new attorney salary schedule in HB 226; and (3) include intent language that the transfer would be reversed with an FY23 supplemental request and FY24 budget increment. Legislative Council could also introduce an amendment for consideration in the next Legislature to the Office of Victims' Rights statute AS 24.65.10 that would tie the OVR to the new salary schedule created by HB 226.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about this proposal.

MOTION: I move that (1) Legislative Council approve a transfer of \$75,000 from Legislative Council Funds to the Office of Victims' Rights for the purpose of placing four attorneys on the new attorney salary schedule in AS 39.27.011(I), (2) that Legislative Council direct the Legislative Affairs Agency to request an FY23 supplemental to cover the transferred funds and an FY24 increment, and (3) that Legislative Council authorize legislation for consideration of the 33rd Legislature to amend AS 24.65.060 and AS 24.65.070 accordingly.