



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

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Sponsor Statement House Bill 48

"An Act relating to reports from the State Commission for Human Rights."

House Bill 48 is by request of the Human Rights Commission. In their meeting on December 13, 2022, the Human Rights Commission passed resolution 2022-8 and requested AS 18.80.150 be modified by the legislature. Simply put, their data set cannot be analyzed for the year until January 1st of the succeeding year. This gives the Commission roughly 10 days to produce and deliver a report to the legislature.

Every three years, the Commission performs an assessment which requires studying a separate dataset that it reviews with the executive branch leadership. This in turn generates additional analysis and comments. The turnaround on these reports can take as much as two months, particularly since this overlaps the time agency budgets are being prepared and submitted to the legislature. It takes additional time by Commission staff to turn that review into a quality production that has meaningful information.

Further, the Commission indicates finding vendors who can print and publish reports to meet the statutory deadline is challenging. Since 1980, the Commission has published their annual report in February or March, and the three year report in April.

This statutory change would clarify due dates of reports in statute strengthen the Commissions ability to produce a meaningful and quality product.

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