

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON  
*SENATE DISTRICT G*

## **Sponsor Statement**

### Senate Bill 81 am Version B.A

#### Office of Victims' Rights: Compensation

In the Thirty-Second Legislature, legislation was passed that created a new salary schedule for state attorneys (i.e., HB 226 PAY INCREASES FOR CERTAIN STATE EMPLOYEES) effective October 31, 2022, which inadvertently excluded the four attorneys in the Office of Victims' Rights (OVR).

As a temporary solution, Legislative Council approved paying OVR attorneys according to the new schedule and funded the increase with a one-time transfer for fiscal year 2023; however, legislation is required to permanently place the OVR attorneys on the state attorney salary schedule.

SB 81 seeks to permanently place OVR attorneys on the salary schedule set out in AS 39.27.011(a) and (l). This draft legislation was reviewed and approved by the Legislative Council on February 21, 2023, and forwarded to the Senate Rules Committee for introduction to the legislature.

SB 81 was amended on the Senate Floor to include provisions that streamline and modernize the OVR victims' advocate selection process. With leadership from the co-chair of the current Victims' Advocate Selection Committee, these simple and smart operational changes will better serve the OVR, the Selection Committee, the Legislature, and all Alaskans.

I urge your support of SB 81.