



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Administration

PAULA VRANA, COMMISSIONER

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May 3, 2024

The Honorable Elvi Gray-Jackson  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 30  
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: CSSB 259 (FIN), Sec. 2

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson,

I am pleased to write a letter of support on behalf of the Office of Administrative Hearings, for the inclusion of Section 2, in Senate Bill 259. Currently in legislation, the Chief Administrative Law Judge's salary is capped at Range 27, Step F, on the Juneau salary schedule. Section 2 of the bill is a provision that addresses this issue.

The result of this salary cap has been to make the Chief's salary much lower than those of the Deputy Chief, Tax Qualified Administrative Law Judges, and Senior Administrative Law Judges at the Office of Administrative Hearings. The salary cap hampers the Governor's ability when recruiting to fill the Chief Administrative Law Judge position. The highly experienced candidates suitable to serve as Chief Administrative Law Judge generally qualify for step placement beyond step F on the salary schedule. Currently, this position is vacant following the recent retirement of Chief Administrative Law Judge in February 2024.

The language changes in Section 2 also addresses a second issue with salary of the Chief Administrative Law Judge. Currently, the Chief salary is taken from the Juneau salary schedule regardless of whether the Chief resides in Juneau or not. Section 2 ensures that the salary schedule used will be the one that corresponds to the Chief Administrative Law Judge's actual location.

The Department of Administration sincerely appreciates your assistance in addressing these fixes to this legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paula Vrana".

Commissioner Paula Vrana  
Department of Administration