

HOUSE BILL NO. 155

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 2/24/97

Referred: State Affairs, Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to hearings before and authorizing fees for the State
2 Commission for Human Rights; and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 18.80.060(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) In addition to other powers and duties prescribed by this chapter, the
6 commission may

7 (1) delegate to the executive director all powers and duties given it by
8 this chapter except the duties and powers given it by AS 18.80.120 and 18.80.130;

9 (2) call upon the departments and agencies of the state, with the
10 approval of the governor, for cooperation and assistance in carrying out this chapter;

11 (3) hold hearings under AS 18.80.120;

12 (4) establish the amount and manner of payment of fees for services,
13 information, and materials that the commission provides to public and private
14 organizations and other persons.

1 * **Sec. 2.** AS 18.80.120 is amended to read:

2 **Sec. 18.80.120. Hearing.** If the informal efforts to eliminate the alleged
3 discrimination are unsuccessful, the executive director shall inform the commission of
4 the failure, and the commission shall provide the respondent and the complainant with
5 notice of the failure and shall serve written notice together with a copy of the
6 complaint, requiring the person, employer, labor organization, or employment agency
7 charged in the complaint to answer the allegations of the complaint at a hearing before
8 the commission. The hearing shall be held by the commission at the **commission**
9 **office unless a party** [PLACE WHERE THE UNLAWFUL CONDUCT IS ALLEGED
10 TO HAVE OCCURRED UNLESS THE PERSON, EMPLOYER, LABOR
11 ORGANIZATION, OR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY] requests a change of venue for
12 good cause shown **and the commission grants the request.** The case in support of
13 the complaint shall be presented before the commission by the executive director or
14 a designee who shall be a bona fide resident of the state. The person charged in the
15 complaint may file a written answer to the complaint and may appear at the hearing
16 in person or otherwise, with or without counsel, and submit testimony. The executive
17 director has the power reasonably and fairly to amend the complaint, and the person
18 charged has the power reasonably and fairly to amend the answer. The commission
19 is not bound by the strict rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law or equity. The
20 testimony taken at the hearing shall be under oath and shall be **recorded**
21 [TRANSCRIBED AT THE REQUEST OF ANY PARTY TO THE HEARING].

22 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).