

Introduced: 2/13/84
Referred: State Affairs,
Judiciary and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ABOOD

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HOUSE BILL NO. 619

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing an Office of Litigation Counsel
7 in each house of the legislature; and providing for
8 an effective date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 24.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

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ARTICLE 5. OFFICES OF LITIGATION COUNSEL.

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Sec. 24.20.580. OFFICES OF LITIGATION COUNSEL ESTABLISHED. The office of litigation counsel of the senate and the office of litigation counsel of the house are established as permanent staff offices of the legislature. The head of each office is a director appointed by the council.

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Sec. 24.20.590. APPOINTMENT, QUALIFICATION, AND REMOVAL. The director of each office of litigation counsel is appointed by the council for a term of four years. The director shall have been admitted to the practice of law in Alaska for not less than five years at the time of appointment and shall be admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the District of Alaska. The director may be removed during the term only for cause. Removal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the council and the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of the house represented by the director.

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Sec. 24.20.600. DUTIES. The office of litigation counsel of the senate shall represent the senate, its committees, members, and staff before courts or other tribunals as directed by the president of the

1 senate and perform other appropriate duties as assigned by the presi-
2 dent. The office of litigation counsel of the house shall represent
3 the house, its committees, members, and staff before courts or other
4 tribunals as directed by the speaker of the house and perform other
5 appropriate duties as assigned by the speaker. The offices shall
6 jointly represent permanent interim committees, joint committees,
7 agencies of permanent committees, and staff before courts or other
8 tribunals as directed by the council.

9 Sec. 24.20.610. COMPENSATION AND STAFF. (a) The council shall
10 establish the compensation of each director. Each director shall
11 employ and establish the compensation of the professional and clerical
12 staff of the office within the limits of the budget approved by the
13 council.

14 (b) The director and the members of the professional staff of
15 the director shall maintain the integrity of the office's functions
16 and services on behalf of the legislative branch by refraining from
17 joining or supporting any partisan political organization, faction or
18 activity that would tend to undermine the essential nonpartisan nature
19 of their functions and services. However, this section does not
20 restrict the director or members of the professional staff from ex-
21 pressing private opinion, registering to vote, or voting.

22 Sec. 24.20.620. BUDGET. The director of each office shall make
23 a formal request to the council for funds the director considers
24 necessary for the function of that office. The council shall consider
25 the recommendations and include the funds it determines necessary in
26 the budget submitted under AS 24.20.130.

27 Sec. 24.20.630. DEFINITION. In AS 24.20.580 - 24.20.620
28 "council" means the Alaska Legislative Council.

29 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with

1 AS 01.10.070(c).