

**SB**

**103**

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STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

February 24, 1997

The Honorable Mike Miller  
President of the Senate  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Miller:

In our efforts to reduce budgets, some actions that save money also create efficiencies which better meet public service goals. That is the case with this bill regarding the Human Rights Commission. This proposal provides the Commission more flexibility in its operations and helps the body perform its essential work for the state.

The bill would allow the Human Rights Commission to hold hearings at its office in Anchorage rather than where the alleged discrimination occurred, as is required under current law. This will save time and money in travel costs. The Commission would continue to ensure that complainants may participate in the hearings.

This bill would also allow the Commission to charge fees to cover the costs of services, information and materials and to provide tapes rather than transcriptions of the hearings, as currently required.

These changes would reduce the cost and time involved in resolving cases, helping the Commission to work through its tremendous backlog of cases, and better respond to the public's increased requests for its services. The result will be better human rights protection for Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Tony Knowles  
Governor