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Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
GENE THERRIAULT

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Senate

While in session
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
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Senate District Q

Senate Bill 331: "An Act relating to the jurisdiction of district courts"

Sponsor:

Senator Gene Therriault

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene J.", written over the printed name of the sponsor.

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 331 addresses and clarifies the current statute relating to civil awards in district court cases. Current statute is unclear regarding the monetary limit in a civil case where there are multiple defendants. As a result, the only way to get around this uncertainty is if plaintiffs file multiple suits in district court to allow for an award in excess of \$50,000. Such a course of action would be expensive for the plaintiff and grossly inefficient for the court.

Senate Bill 331 proposes to address this problem by clearly stating that the \$50,000 limit is per defendant. This action would also ensure that residents in certain rural settings would not be required to travel to Superior Court venues in urban areas just to get access to moderate award limits.

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REQUEST FOR HEARING

To: Senator Robin Taylor, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

Subject: Senate Bill 331

Sponsor: Senator Gene Therriault 

Date: February 26, 2002

I would like to respectfully request that SB 331 be scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

SB 331 would clarify existing statute relating to civil jurisdiction in district courts. This change would save the court system time and money as well as allow plaintiffs in rural areas access to reasonable awards without having to travel to an urban area to file a claim in superior court.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 331
 () Publish Date: 2/19/2002

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title Jurisdiction of District Courts BRU Alaska Court System
 Component Trial Courts
 Sponsor Senator Theriault
 Requester Senate Judiciary Component No. 768

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The court system does not anticipate any fiscal impact from the passage of SB 331.

Prepared by: Douglas Wooliver
 Division: Alaska Court System
 Approved by: Stephanie Cole
 Agency: Alaska Court System

Phone 463-4750
 Date/Time 2/28/02 10:56 AM
 Date 2/28/2002