

HB

309

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SESSION ADDRESS
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-2487
Fax (907) 465-4956

INTERIM ADDRESS
112 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-8872
Fax (907) 486-5264

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

MEMO

DATE: 1/25/2008

TO: HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS
REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE GABRIELLE LEDOUX *GL*

RE: HEARING REQUEST FOR HB 309, "AN ACT REQUIRING A LEGISLATOR TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON QUESTIONS AFFECTING AN ENTERPRISE IF THE LEGISLATOR OR A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATOR'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY HAS AN EQUITY OR OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN THE ENTERPRISE THAT IS SUBSTANTIAL, AND REQUIRING A LEGISLATOR TO ABSTAIN FROM TAKING OR WITHHOLDING OFFICIAL ACTION OR EXERTING OFFICIAL INFLUENCE IN CERTAIN MATTERS IN WHICH THE LEGISLATOR'S ACTION OR INFLUENCE COULD BENEFIT OR HARM THE FINANCIAL INTEREST OF A PERSON BY WHOM THE LEGISLATOR OR A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATOR'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY IS EMPLOYED OR WITH WHOM THE LEGISLATOR OR A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATOR'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY IS NEGOTIATING FOR EMPLOYMENT; MAKING THE ACT CONDITIONALLY EFFECTIVE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

I respectfully request that House Bill 309 be scheduled for a hearing in the House State Affairs.

Attached you will find:

- HB 309
- Sponsor Statement
- My staff member assigned to this legislation is Suzanne Hancock, direct line 465-4230.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SESSION ADDRESS
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-2487
Fax (907) 465-4956

INTERIM ADDRESS
112 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-8872
Fax (907) 486-5264

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HB 309

"An Act requiring a legislator to abstain from voting on questions affecting an enterprise if the legislator or a member of the legislator's immediate family has an equity or ownership interest in the enterprise that is substantial, and requiring a legislator to abstain from taking or withholding official action or exerting official influence in certain matters in which the legislator's action or influence could benefit or harm the financial interest of a person by whom the legislator or a member of the legislator's immediate family is employed or with whom the legislator or a member of the legislator's immediate family is negotiating for employment; making the Act conditionally effective; and providing for an effective date."

This act would help reduce conflicts of interest among legislators when voting. Currently, when a member of the House or Senate declares a conflict of interest on a bill and asks to abstain from voting, any other member can object, and the member has to vote. This act would require legislators with conflicts of interest to abstain.

This act would require a member to abstain if the legislation affects an enterprise in which the legislator or an immediate family member has a substantial equity or ownership interest. Abstaining would also be required if the action would affect someone with whom the legislator or a family member is employed, or is seeking employment.

There are many issues that come before the Legislature where a member could have a conflict of interest. This includes fishermen, trial lawyers, pilots, doctors, and many other occupations and businesses. It is important that those members with conflicts participate in the debate on the floor, so their expertise is not wasted in a citizens' Legislature. However, in order to restore the public's trust in our Legislature, we should amend the rules to restrict those with clear conflicts from voting.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB 309
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HB309-LEG-SES-03-14-08 Dept. Affected: Legislature
 Title: "An Act requiring a Legislator to abstain from voting on
questions affecting an enterprise if the Legislator or a member of the... RDU: Legislative Council
 Sponsor: Representative LeDoux Component: Session Expenses
 Requester: House State Affairs Component Number: 782

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
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	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation has zero fiscal impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.

Prepared by: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director Phone: 465-6626
 Division: Legislative Affairs Agency Date/Time: 3/14/08 11:47 AM
 Approved by: Pamela Varni, Executive Director Date: 3/14/2008
Legislative Affairs Agency