

**SB**

**207**

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207</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA28</COMM></TARGET>

# Alaska State Legislature



Senator Lesil McGuire  
Senate District K

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### SB 207

***An Act relating to restrictions on the solicitation and acceptance of campaign contributions by certain persons running for statewide office while the legislature is in session.***

Senate Bill 207 provides a greater level of clarity and protections for the public concerning campaign contributions to state-wide election campaigns while the legislature is in session.

Currently, Alaska Statute **Sec.15.13.072. Restrictions on solicitation and acceptance of contributions**, contains two provisions– subsection (d) and (g) – that could be viewed in conflict and lack clarity in addressing the bar to raising funds during session for a legislator that is also a candidate for statewide office. SB 207 removes any ambiguity in that regard while at the same time leveling the playing field for all statewide candidates that hold state or municipal office by applying the same bar to campaign fundraising during the legislative session with certain equal exceptions.

This measure repeals AS 15.32.072(g) and adds a new subsection AS 15.32.072(i) prohibiting the Governor, the Lt. Governor, and elected municipal officials from accepting donations for a state-wide campaign during the legislative session, or special session, unless session is held within 90 days of the election, the person accepting a contribution is doing so for their own personal campaign, and the solicitation or acceptance does not occur in the municipality in which the session is being held.

Alaska is fortunate to have an extremely participatory population at all levels of government. The idea that the Governor, Lt. Governor, and elected municipal officials are disinterested parties in the legislative process and therefore should be held to different standard than that of sitting legislators is clearly false. Senate Bill 207 simply levels the playing field by holding all of these offices to the same standards as sitting legislators and protects the rights of members of the public who decide to run for state-wide office.