

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

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House Bill 309 Version G

Sponsor Statement

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HB 309 seeks to remedy two issues that will make the Alaska Public Offices Commission more effective.

HB 309 provides a campaign disclosure reporting exemption for smaller groups who don't intend to raise or spend more than \$2,500 in a calendar year (\$5,000 during an 18 month election cycle). The bill also exempts these groups from the electronic filing requirement for these reports. This is beneficial as smaller groups generally require much more APOC staff time and interaction because they are usually novices who are only interested in a single topic on a ballot, unlike ongoing groups that participate every year. A similar exemption already exists for judicial retention candidates and municipal candidates.

HB 309 would also exempt smaller communities (population of 15,000 or less), from Public Official Financial Disclosure (POFD) reporting requirements. There is already a minimum population exemption for campaign disclosures, but none for a POFD filing. Many of the smaller communities who struggle with clerk turnover, connectivity, and regular mail service often find themselves at a disadvantage when it comes to timely notifications and filing. This results in disproportionate civil penalties for these rural areas where most, if not all, of their municipal officers are serving in a volunteer capacity.