



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Office of the Governor

COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

800 A Street, Suite 204
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3669
Main: 907.274.4692 / 907.276.7474
TTY/TDD: 711 for Alaska Relay
Fax: 907.278-8588

RESOLUTION 2022-8

Requesting the Alaska Legislature change the due date for the annual report as codified in AS 18.80.150

WHEREAS, AS 18.80.150 requires the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights (“ASCHR” or the “Commission”) to “report annually to the governor on civil rights problems it has encountered in the preceding year . . . [and] provide the Legislative Affairs Agency with 40 copies of the report during the week preceding the convening of the annual legislative session for library distribution;” and,

WHEREAS, the Commission cannot begin analyzing its case data for the prior year until January 1; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature typically convenes during the third week in January; and,

WHEREAS, that time frame only gives the Commission staff approximately 10 business days to produce and deliver the report; and,

WHEREAS, AS 18.80.060(a)(6) requires the Commission to “make an overall assessment, at least once every three years, of the progress made toward equal employment opportunity by every department of State government; results of the assessment shall be included in the annual report made under AS 18.80.150;” and,

WHEREAS, including the assessment every three years requires examining the state’s equal employment opportunity (“EEO”) data, which the state does not possess until January 1; and,

WHEREAS, the three-year assessment requires the Commission’s staff to review the data and discuss it with the executive branch cabinet members, administrative services directors, and high-level human resources employees; and,

WHEREAS, the executive branch leadership is typically unavailable to review its own EEO data during the first two weeks of January due to pressing executive branch priorities associated with the nascent legislative session, let alone discuss this data with Commission staff; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission staff found scheduling the interviews for the last three-year assessment took two full months; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission upgraded the production quality of its annual report starting in 2016, and staff finds that it takes approximately one week to turn the raw text and data into a high quality publication; and,

WHEREAS, once the Commission approves the draft, staff finds that it takes several days for the printer to deliver the copies; and,

WHEREAS, since approximately 1980, Commission records indicate that the report was typically printed in February or March, with the three-year assessment reports pushing publication into April; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that meeting the annual report's statutory deadline is virtually impossible given the reliance on external publishers and printers, and is particularly challenging during state EEO assessment years; and,

WHEREAS, there are more than 40 members of the Alaska Legislature, and when the Commission sent only 40 copies to the Legislative Affairs Agency in 2020 it asked the Commission to send at least 20 additional copies for distribution to each legislative office.

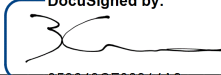
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights calls on the Alaska Legislature to amend AS 18.80.150 to change the date for the annual report to approximately mid-February, and grant the Commission greater time for staff to analyze and interview the appropriate executive branch leaders about each department's EEO data during those assessment year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission suggests the following language for legislative discussion in amending AS 18.80.150:

The commission shall report annually to the governor on civil rights problems is has encountered in the preceding year, and may recommend legislative action. The commission shall provide the Legislative Affairs Agency with 60 [40] copies of the report by the 30th day of each legislative session, except those years during which the commission undertakes an overall assessment required by AS 18.80.060(a)(6) in which case the commission may deliver that portion of the annual report containing the overall assessment by May 1, [DURING THE WEEK PRECEDING THE CONVENING OF THE ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION] for library distribution. The commission shall make copies of the report available to the public and notify the legislature that the report is available.

Copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Alaska Legislature and the Governor.

ADOPTED at Fairbanks, Alaska, this 13th day of December, 2022

DocuSigned by:


953643CF08314A2...
Zackary Gottshall
Chairperson
Alaska State Commission for Human Rights

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution
2022-8 is a true and accurate copy of the
language adopted by the Commission on
December 13, 2022.


Angela Park
Secretary
Alaska State Commission for Human Rights