

Alaska State Legislature

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Senator Pete Kelly
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Sponsor Statement for SB 90 **Office of Citizenship Assistance**

“An Act establishing the Office of Citizenship Assistance; and providing for an effective date.”

Last Updated: March 12, 2001

Contact: Senator Pete Kelly at (907) 465-2327

Senate Bill 90 would create an office to assist naturalized citizens and citizen candidates in Alaska.

SB 90 establishes the Office of Citizenship Assistance as a branch of the State’s Ombudsman Office. Naturalized citizens and people who are actively pursuing United States citizenship could receive navigation through state and private service agencies.

The Office of Citizenship Assistance would act as a liaison between individuals, the Office of the Ombudsman and the State Commission for Human Rights. Under this legislation the Office would assist in immigration services, employment services, affordable legal service, medical services, and educational opportunities. The Office also assists with credit counseling, interactions with law enforcement agencies including the court system.

Through this legislation, the Office shall be sensitive to the diverse cultural backgrounds of the people they would help. The Office of Citizenship Assistance would help new citizens adjust to life in the United States while respecting the social customs of their clients.

Alaska has always carried rich opportunity. SB 90 would expand our melting pot as people come from across the globe in search of an improved quality of life.