

# REPRESENTATIVE DeLENA JOHNSON

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## **HB 241 – PER DIEM OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE**

### **Sponsor Statement**

Legislators work for the people of the State of Alaska. They are directly responsible for discharging their duties to the highest standards, in as time-efficient a manner as possible. Chief among these duties is the passage of our state government's operating budget.

The purpose of this legislation is to promote the assurance that our legislature will devote the diligence necessary to pass the operating budget in a timely manner, while allocating enough remaining time to conduct all other business brought before it during the constitutionally mandated session period.

This bill will require the legislature to pass a fully funded operating budget (as defined by AS 01.10.070) within the first 90 days of a regular legislative session. Failing that, all members of the legislature will forfeit their per diem payments from day 91 until the operating budget is passed.

With among the highest per diem rates in the nation, and the current fiscal crisis, the Alaska State Legislature must lead the way in making highest and best use of our limited fiscal resources.

I respectfully ask for your support of House Bill 241.