

# Amendment to Include Sex in Discrimination

ANCHORAGE — The amendment to include sex to Alaska's laws against discrimination has become effective according to Robert Willard, Executive Director of the Alaska Human Rights Commission. Willard said the legislative amendment took effect on August 4.

"Specifically, the statutes now prohibit discrimination on basis of sex in employment, housing, public accommodations, financial dealings, and State operations," he said from his Anchorage office.

"The Commission's jurisdiction previously extended only to employment," Willard explained.

Additional amendment authorizes the Commission to employ temporary legal counsel when another State agency is charged with discrimination and is being represented by the Attorney General.

The governing Board of Commissioners has also been expanded from five to seven members. Willard said that he was not sure when the Governor would appoint the two new members, nor who would be appointed to the five-year terms.

The Director said that alleged violations of anti-discrimination statutes should be reported to the Alaska Human Rights Commission, Office of the Governor, in either Anchorage or Fairbanks.