

# ALASKA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Representative Tom Anderson

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### Anderson Champions Additional DNA Legislation

(JUNEAU) – Legislation allowing for broader laws in collecting DNA samples from convicted felons has passed both the Alaska House of Representatives and the Senate. HB 124, sponsored by Representative Tom Anderson (R-Anchorage) gives corrections, probation and parole officers the authority to use reasonable force to procure DNA samples required by law.

Last session, Representative Anderson championed HB 49, the most comprehensive expansion of DNA law in Alaska's history and HB 124 furthers this effort.

“Giving law enforcement the support they need to collect DNA samples from uncooperative individuals is another step in assisting our justice system in their efforts to solve cold cases, keep innocent people out of jail and protect those in law enforcement who are simply trying to carry out their duties,” said Representative Anderson.

The Departments of Corrections and Public Safety approached Representative Anderson about sponsoring legislation to make changes to the law regarding use of force in DNA collection. HB 124 changes existing law so that officers who use reasonable force to obtain DNA samples are not held liable for civil or criminal penalties.

“Convicted felons have no incentive to provide samples because not cooperating adds little to their sentence compared to what they might face if convicted on DNA evidence,” Representative Anderson went on to say.

HB 124 awaiting the Governor's signature to be signed into law.

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