



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: www.akrepublicans.org

Sponsor: Senator Con Bunde
Current Version: CSSB 134 (JUD)
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 134

Short Title: POLICE INVESTIGATION STANDARDS/ARRESTS

Summary:

- Establishes a pilot program within the Office of Victim's Rights to review cases in which the victim of first degree sexual assault or sexual abuse of a minor complains that the investigation has not been timely or thorough.
- Begins the pilot program Sept. 1, 2006 and ends it August 31, 2008.
- Gives the victim's advocate the jurisdiction to investigate the complaint and assist with contacting the justice agencies.
- Requires the victim's advocate to consult with, and report to the justice agencies.
- Gives the victim advocate the privileges and immunities set out in AS 24.65.190 and 24.65.200.
- Makes it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 to hinder, or refuse to comply with, the victim's advocate in connection with this program.
- Requires the Office of Victim's Rights to report its conclusions concerning complaints investigated under the program to the legislature by Sept. 30, 2008.

Benefits:

- Provides crime victims a place to bring complaints regarding an officer's conduct and assures the public that officers are held accountable.

Background:

- Currently, if a victim of sexual abuse or assault is unsatisfied with the speed or thoroughness of an investigation, he or she has no real recourse or options for seeking additional help. SB 134 allows the Office of Victim's Rights (OVR) to intercede on behalf of the victim if necessary in cases involving unclassified sexual assault or sexual abuse investigations, and gives the office the same rights and responsibilities while handling these cases as it has with current court cases. Attorneys with OVR are charged with determining if there has been negligence in the reported investigations and assisting the victim if so.

Alaska's per capita rape rate is nearly 71% greater than that of the next highest state. However, Alaska's rate of arrest is almost half the national average. In larger municipalities, a victim may file a complaint; however, in most cases, all proceedings with the complaint are kept private within the police department and the victim has no formal recourse or resolution. In smaller, rural areas, there is no department in which to file the complaint. Often times, there are only one or two peace officers in the area.