



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: www.akrepublicans.org

Sponsor: Finance
Current Version: SB 310
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 310

Short Title: EMPLOYMENT OF PRISONERS

Summary:

- Provides the necessary statutory authority to allow the Department of Corrections to continue providing inmate work and training programs.
- Allows the Department of Corrections to enter into a contract with a private organization to employ prisoners if the work will have minimum negative impact on existing private industry.
- Requires payment to the Department of Corrections of at least the minimum wage for each hour worked by a prisoner, and compensation of a maximum of 50 percent of the minimum wage to the inmate unless higher compensation is required by federal law.
- Provides guidelines for deducting the cost of confinement and disbursing compensation to dependents, the state, civil judgments, utility services, clothing and restitution.

Benefits:

- Provides the necessary statutory authority to participate in critical federal Prison Industry Enhancement (PIE) programs.
- Provides realistic work experience and vocational training for prisoners under conditions similar to those that prevail in the private sector.
- Grants the department the authority to actively participate and partner with private enterprise.
- Allows inmates to work toward financial responsibility by taking deductions from wages to pay for child support, victim restitution, criminal fines, civil judgments, fees for utilities and other obligations.

Background:

- The legislation that created the Alaska Correctional Industries program and commission was repealed on July 1, 2005. SB 310 provides the necessary statutory authority so the Department of Corrections can continue providing inmate work and training programs without interruption. This employment program will be funded from Receipt Support Service funds.