

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

## **SPONSOR STATEMENT**

**HB 322**

**“An Act relating to infants who are safely surrendered by a parent shortly after birth.”**

This a bill that will allow parents to safely surrender an infant shortly after birth without fear of being criminally prosecuted. The parent may, without expressing an intent to return for the infant, leave the infant in the physical custody of a person who the parent reasonably believes is a peace officer, a physician or hospital employee in a hospital or hospital emergency room, or a volunteer with or employee of a fire station or emergency medical service who is performing activities within the scope of the volunteer’s or employee’s fire services of emergency medical services duties.

There are similar laws in other states and this is a way of encouraging people to not abandon infants in a way that could lead to injury or death. A record regarding the surrender of an infant is confidential and not subject to public inspection.