

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 116

“An Act relating to the liability of certain persons for entry and remaining on licensed premises.”

Volunteers under the age of 21 cooperate with law enforcement officials in investigating and enforcing compliance with the state’s alcoholic beverage laws. Under current statutes, persons under 21 years of age can be sued by license holders for up to \$1000 for being on the premises. No exemption exists in the law for young people working with law enforcement officials. Recently a liquor license holder sued a volunteer, who was cooperating in an active investigation.

House Bill 116 creates an exception to AS 04.16.049 to protect young volunteers cooperating with law enforcement from retributive action and liability. Keeping alcoholic beverages out of the hands of people under 21 years of age is a cooperative effort. Young people working with law enforcement should not be subjected to lawsuits for participating in an investigation.