

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## REPRESENTATIVE MARK NEUMAN

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### Fact Sheet for: House Bill 353

#### Short Title: SENTENCING FOR SEXUAL OFFENSES

##### Summary:

- Increases sentencing times for the most egregious Unclassified and Class A sexual felonies against a minor to a minimum sentence of 25 years.
- Increases sentencing for Unclassified and Class A sexual felonies against an adult to a minimum of 20 years.
- Restructures and increases sentencing for Class B and Class C sexual offenses.
- Requires periodic polygraph testing for sex offenders on probation and parole.
- Updates sex offender registering and reporting.

##### Benefits:

- Ensures Alaska is part of the national effort to curb sexual abuse and violence against children.
- Combats Alaska's ever-increasing sexual assault rates.
- Ensures, through longer sentences, that the most dangerous offenders are kept away from children, eventually decreasing sexual assault numbers.
- Increases compliance with probation requirements.

##### Background:

- According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report, Alaska has the highest per capita rate of reported rapes ("rapes" in this case refer to child sexual abuse as well as assaults against adults). Alaska's per capita rape rate is nearly 71% greater than that of the next highest state. To date, Alaska has 4,300 registered sex offenders. However, sexual abuse reporting rates are low (16% of victims report the assault, Kilpatrick Rape in America Report, 1992) and arrest rates are also low (27% of reported sex crimes result in an arrest, Snyder, 2000). Thus, the number of sex offenders in Alaska is most likely significantly higher. While there is no record of sex offender treatment or therapy significantly affecting recidivism rates (SOTEP Report, 1995), steps can be taken to reduce sexual abuse and assault. Supervision of sex offenders with polygraph tests led to a 69% compliance with probation requirements, while supervision without polygraph tests led to a 26% compliance rate.