

Keeping Alaska's Children Safe and Healthy

The Republican-led Majority remains committed to keeping Alaska's children safe and healthy. The 22nd Alaska Legislature passed legislation supporting teaching children to resolve their differences without violence, funding programs to keep children from getting hooked on tobacco, raising their awareness of sexual assault and how to avoid it, giving grandparents the opportunity to take in children from troubled families, limiting youthful offenders' time in adult jails, discouraging teen drinking, memorializing the victims and survivors of drunken driving, and encouraging family-friendly federal policies.

House Bill 99: School Discipline and Safety

Sponsored by Rep. Lesil McGuire

House Bill 99 requires public school safety and discipline plans to include policies to teach students non-violent conflict resolution and mediation practices.

House Bill 164: Grandparents' Rights Regarding CINA

Sponsored by Rep. Fred Dyson

House Bill 164 encourages state courts to consider placing children from troubled families with their grandparents, by assuring grandparents the opportunity to be heard at their grandchildren's Child in Need of Aid hearings or child custody hearings.

House Bill 179: Offenses Relating to Underage Drinking

Sponsored by the House Judiciary Committee

House Bill 179 addresses Alaska's problems with underage drinking by recriminalizing consumption of alcohol by minors. It imposes escalating fines and community service requirements ranging from up to \$600 and 24 hours service for a first offense, to a maximum of \$1,000 in fines, 90 days in jail, suspension of the offender's drivers license and mandatory alcoholism treatment for a third offense.

House Bill 228: Sale of Tobacco Products

Sponsored by Rep. John Harris

House Bill 228 dedicates nearly \$500,000 from Alaska's share of the national tobacco lawsuit settlement for tobacco cessation, prevention and education programs for Alaska's youth. The bill also raises fines to fines for businesses found guilty of selling tobacco to minors to \$500 for a first offense, and \$2,500 for a third offense.

House Bill 200: Drunk Driving Victims Remembrance Day

Sponsored by the House Judiciary Committee

House Bill 200 establishes July 3 as Drunk Driving Victims Remembrance Day in Alaska, to help preserve the memories of Alaskans whose lives were cut short by drunken drivers and honor others who have suffered as victims of drunk drivers, and to serve as an occasion for all drivers to reflect on the consequences of getting behind the wheel after consuming alcohol.

Senate Bill 178: Detention of Delinquent Minors

Sponsored by Sen. Gene Therriault

Senate Bill 178 requires an initial appearance in court within 24 hours for juveniles placed in an adult jail or lockup, and would place the federal regulation exception language into state statute. This change allows the state to continue receiving federal funds for youth corrections services.

Senate Bill 198: Statewide Suicide Prevention Council

Sponsored by Sen. Rick Halford

Senate Bill 198 creates the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council, with members representing rural and urban Alaska. The fifteen member council will be tasked with developing a plan to address Alaska's alarming suicide rate, enhancing suicide prevention services and programs throughout the state, and increasing public awareness of suicide warning signs