



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

Sponsor: Senator Tom Wagoner
Current Version: HCS CSSB 309(JUD)
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 309

Short Title: Blood Borne Pathogen Testing of Prisoners

Summary:

- Allows for the testing of prisoners for blood borne pathogens in the event a correctional officer is exposed to blood or other bodily fluids. Testing is subject to confidentiality provisions with penalties for unauthorized disclosure.

Benefits:

- The ability to test prisoners should reduce the frequency of intentional contamination.

Background:

During 2003 prisoners exposed more than 40 Alaska correctional officers to blood borne pathogens. In most cases, the exposure was intentional. Although testing of Alaska prisoners for blood borne pathogens is available at the request of rape victims, it is not currently available for Alaskan correctional officers. Currently, a correctional officer who has been bitten or exposed to blood borne pathogens by other means may undergo a two-week treatment with a broad range of preventative medication for hepatitis, HIV and other potential contagions. If the prisoner could be tested and proven negative, officers could choose to forego the preventative treatment.