

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Sponsor Statement House Bill 120

Strategically strengthening our laws will reduce Alaska's sky-high crime rate.
This bill will improve public safety by stiffening criminal procedures.

Less Pre-Trial Drinking

Because so many crimes involve alcohol and we want to lessen recidivism, currently judges may order convicted criminals to refrain from consuming alcohol, and our law already says if you're barred from consuming, you're also barred from purchasing.

But currently, judges cannot bar those *awaiting* trial from purchasing alcohol. This bill would empower a judge to do so. If clear and convincing evidence shows that, to ensure safety, an accused must also surrender his driver's license, this bill would allow a judge to order that.

See Something, Say Something

Currently, if a witness sees someone committing a crime under circumstances that might seriously injure or kill a child, that witness is *not* required to report it. This bill would make failure to report a felony. It also expands the circumstances under which someone would be required to report a violent crime against an adult, and makes failure to report a misdemeanor.

More Jail for Domestic Violence

Domestic violence cases appear very frequently in Alaska's courts and repeat offences are not unusual, partly because sentences are too light. This bill empowers judges to jail someone for up to a year if his crime involved domestic violence.

Slow the Revolving Door

Crime stories all too often note that an accused perpetrator was out on parole...because it's too easy to get paroled. This bill gives the parole board greater discretion and makes it easier for the board to keep a criminal in jail if he or she poses a threat of public harm.