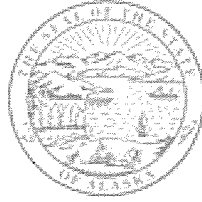


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Representative Chuck Kopp

House Majority Leader · District 10 · Oceanview/Old Seward, Bayshore/Klatt

Sponsor Statement SCS CSHB 239(JUD) – version H

**Note: The sectional summary incorporates ten proposed legislative crime related bills, four new sections, and three new subsections in the current version SCS CSHB 239(JUD), version H.*

The original version of HB 239 elevated the crime of Vehicular Criminally Negligent Homicide from a class B felony to a class A felony when a person also failed to render aid/leaves the scene of a fatal crash. It increased the presumptive sentence for 1st time offenders from 1-3 years to 4-7 years. If convicted of both Criminally Negligent Homicide and Failure to Render Assistance, it required some additional time to be imposed for the Failure to Render Assistance and allowed for judicial discretion on the amount of time to be served consecutively.

The current version of HB 239 is an omnibus public-safety and justice bill that brings together several bipartisan House and Senate measures into one coordinated package. Its focus is straightforward: protect victims, close known loopholes in our law, modernize outdated statutes, and improve efficiency across Alaska's justice system – without overcriminalization.

This omnibus criminal law bill makes over 80 amendments across Alaska statutes. Its primary themes are: (1) raising the protected age of child victims from 16 to 18 across numerous offenses (HB 101); (2) strengthens first-degree sexual assault laws by a health care worker (HB 242); (3) creates two new crimes targeting AI-generated obscene or digitally manipulated obscene child sexual abuse material ("generated obscene CSAM") (SB 247); (4) Adds mail theft as a standalone offense regardless of value of contents (SB 100); (5) adds bestiality to animals as a new form of animal cruelty (Department of Public Safety); (6) transfers the Controlled Substances Advisory Committee to Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development (SB 233); (7) elevates vehicular negligent homicide when a driver causes a fatal crash and abandons the victim (HB 239); (8) creates new sexual assault examination kit (SEAK) handling and creating a statewide tracking system (HB 62); (9) restricting public release of certain marijuana possession conviction records (HB 81); (10) expands victim counseling center definitions to include tribal organizations (HB 384); (11) creating the new crime of airbag fraud (SB 17); (12) strengthening hit-and-run/duty-to-render-aid penalties (SB 265); (13) authorizing medical release for terminally or seriously ill prisoners via electronic monitoring (Department of Corrections).

In short, SCS CSHB 239(JUD) strengthens public safety, protects vulnerable Alaskans, and modernizes our laws through targeted, proven reforms. I respectfully ask for your consideration and support.