

HOUSE BILL 175 – BAIL CLEANUP
Sectional Analysis

Section 1 amends AS 12.25.150(a) (relating to arrest) to conform to the provision in the bail reform legislation last year that changed the deadline for bringing a person arrested before a judicial officer from 24 hours to 48 hours of arrest.

Section 2 amends AS 12.70.130 (relating to extraditions) to conform to the provision in the bail reform legislation last year that changed the deadline for bringing a person arrested before a judicial officer from 24 to 48 hours of arrest.

Section 3 changes the penalty for the offense of failure to possess and present upon request to a peace officer a person's driver's license when driving from a misdemeanor, similar to a class B misdemeanor, to an infraction. The offense currently is correctible, and would continue to be correctible. This offense is also currently on the bail schedule (Rule 43.1, Alaska Rules of Administration) at a \$50 bail. It is not consistent to have an offense at the same time a misdemeanor, which generally requires a court appearance, and at the same time disposable under the bail schedule for a \$50 bail amount. The bill removes this inconsistency.

Section 4 changes the penalty for the crime of failure to carry and present upon request to a peace officer proof of automobile insurance when driving from a class B misdemeanor to an infraction. Current law in statute requires a mandatory fine for this offense of at least \$500; at the same time the offense is on the bail schedule for a bail amount of \$500. It is correctible under current law and would continue to be correctible under this bill. Again, it is inconsistent to have a class B misdemeanor on the bail schedule for disposition without court appearance. The bill removes the inconsistency, and at the same time retains the bail amount of \$500.

Section 5 resolves a similar inconsistency in the penalty for burning a vehicle on the Knik River Public Use Area. In 2006 the legislature created the Knik River Public Use Area. The law authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to adopt regulations governing conduct in the area. AS 41.23.220(a) provides that a person who violates the new law or a regulation under the new law commits a violation. AS 41.23.220(b) requires the Alaska Supreme Court to establish a bail schedule for violations of the statutes and regulations. The law specifically requires that the violations be disposed of without court appearance. One of the regulations adopted prohibits burning a vehicle in the area; the bail was adopted in Supreme Court Order 1711 at \$50.

In 2008 the legislature enacted AS 11.46.420, which adopted a new crime, arson in the third degree. This prohibits burning a vehicle on state or municipal land. The penalty for this crime is a class C felony.

These sections correct this inconsistency by excluding burning a vehicle on state land from the prohibitions that are effective in the Knik River Public Use Area.

Section 6 redrafts Rule 5(a)(1), Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure, to correct a drafting error and to make the rule more readable. The rule was changed last year to extend the deadline from 24 to 48 hours for bringing an arrested person before a judicial officer. This change corrects the drafting error, which currently defines a term that is not used in the rule.

Section 7 notes that the changes included in **Section 5** of the bill have the effect of changing Rule 43.10, Alaska Rules of Administration (the bail schedule) by prohibiting the disposition of cases involving burning a vehicle on state land without a court appearance by mailing to the court a bail amount of \$50.

Sections 8 and 9 include applicability and effective date sections.