



THE STATE
of ALASKA

GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Public Safety

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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January 18, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Meyer
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Meyer,

Please accept this request to schedule SB 148— Background Checks for Police & Training —for consideration by the Senate State Affairs Committee at your earliest convenience.

The Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) has a duty to assure police officers are properly qualified, hired, and trained. To that end, regulations have been adopted that require officer candidates be fingerprinted as part of the background investigation to assure their background information is accurate and their identity is positively established. In most cases, the hiring agency takes an applicant's fingerprints and submits them to DPS for the required fingerprint-based background checks. However, small agencies and village communities that do not have access to the state's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) are prohibited from taking applicant fingerprints and submitting them to DPS for criminal history checks. In such cases, applicants must travel to hub communities and regional DPS posts for this service, which adds additional hurdles and cost to the rural hiring process.

This legislation would empower the APSC to submit fingerprints on behalf of small agencies and village communities for this purpose, thus creating a more time and cost efficient process.

Executive Director Robert Griffiths of the Alaska Police Standards Council will be present when the bill is considered and available to answer any questions the committee may have.

If you should need any additional information please contact Allison Hanzawa at 465-5505 or Allison.Hanzawa@alaska.gov.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Walt Monegan", written over a faint map of Alaska.

Walt Monegan
Commissioner

Cc: Governor's Legislative Office

