

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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**SENATOR KEVIN MEYER**  
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## SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR CSSB 194

*"An Act relating to penalties and civil damages for certain alcohol violations."*

SB 194 increases civil damages to licensees from minors who knowingly enter or remain in premises licensed to sell alcohol. This increase in damages would also apply to those purchasing or delivering alcohol to persons under the age of 21. The bill would increase the amount awarded in civil damages from \$1,000 to \$1,500 under AS 04.16.049 and AS 04.16.065.

Additionally, SB 194 may also require a person convicted of the aforementioned offenses to pay for and enroll in a juvenile alcohol safety action program or similar alcohol education or treatment program if one is available.

Underage drinking is a problem in Alaska. According to the State of Alaska's Plan to Reduce & Prevent Underage Drinking (October 2009), 11 percent of all treatment admissions for alcohol abuse in the state were youth aged 12-20. An increase in civil damages would reinforce the message to those youth that underage drinking will not be tolerated.

Passing SB 194 will reinforce the penalty on youths who knowingly enter or remain on premises where alcohol is sold or consumed. The bill will also encourage licensees to continue their enforcement of underage drinking laws.