

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives



Representative Carl Gatto
Representative Max Gruenberg
Representative Bob Lynn

HB 56

INCLUDE ARSON IN CRIMES OF CONSPIRACY

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 56 adds first and second degree arson to Alaska's conspiracy statute, which will provide strong deterrents to committing arson and close a loophole in current law. HB 56 was drafted after it became apparent during a committee hearing last session that arson is not currently included in Alaska's conspiracy statute. Because of this, arsonists may only be charged with a crime if the arson is completed, and they cannot be charged with the separate crime of conspiracy if two or more people are involved in the arson. HB 56 will fix those problems. Including arson in the conspiracy statute will provide stronger punishments, whether or not conspirators actually complete the arson. Under HB 56, if arson is committed, the conspiring arsonists can be charged with *both* arson and conspiracy, rather than just arson under the current law. If the arson is not completed, however, this bill will allow conspirators to be prosecuted for conspiracy to commit arson, which is not punishable under current law.

If you have any questions, please contact Representative Gruenberg's legislative aide, Gretchen Staft, at 465-4940.