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REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CHENAULT SPEAKER OF THE ALASKA STATE HOUSE

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HOUSE BILL 69: *“An Act exempting certain firearms and firearm accessories in the state from federal regulation; providing criminal penalties for federal officials who enforce or attempt to enforce a federal law, rule or order regulating certain firearms and firearm accessories in the state; and providing for an effective date.”*

The intent of House Bill 69 is an effort to protect Alaskans’ rights to keep and bear arms protected by both the U.S. and Alaska Constitutions. In light of the President’s executive orders and legislative proposals, it is important that Alaska protect not only our Second Amendment rights but also asserting citizens’ and states’ rights guaranteed under the Ninth and Tenth Amendment.

The legislation was drafted in anticipation of President Obama’s executive orders based on recommendations of a work group led by Vice President Biden. This group was charged with developing a set of concrete policy proposals for reducing gun violence. These proposals were the basis for the Presidential Executive Orders that were announced on January 16, 2013. The plan combines executive actions and calls for legislative action that “would help keep guns out of the wrong hands, ban assault and high-capacity magazines, make our schools safer, and increase access to mental health services.” Although the executive orders did not carry the force of law, the recommendations calling for Congressional action could affect Second Amendment rights and the rights of states as well.

House Bill 69 amends current statute (House Bill 186) passed by the Legislature in 2010.