

28th Alaska State Legislature

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Senate Judiciary Committee

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Omnibus Crime/Corrections/Recidivism Bill Version L

Senate Bill 64 implements proven-practices to reduce recidivism and cut the cost of corrections while maintaining public safety.

24/7 Sobriety Program is an evidence-based program that reduces recidivism and keeps the public safe. 24/7 Sobriety is court-ordered for certain offenders during pre-trial or probation. Hallmarks of the program include twice-a-day alcohol testing and swift and certain sanctions if alcohol is consumed. 24/7 Sobriety is modeled after programs in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana that have proven to reduce domestic violence and drunk driving.

Probation and Parole Accountability with Certain Enforcement (P.A.C.E.) is an intensive form of probation/parole for felons who are at high risk of violating the conditions of their probation/parole. The program relies on swift and certain punishments to deter a probationer or parolee from using drugs or otherwise violating their probation requirements.

Offenders on P.A.C.E. are 55% less likely to be arrested for a new crime, 72% less likely to use drugs, 61% less likely to skip appointments, and ultimately 53% less likely to have their probation revoked. P.A.C.E. leads to 48% fewer days in prison. SB 64 expands the program statewide.

Recidivism Reduction Fund: $\frac{2}{3}$ of offenders return to prison within 3 years. To address Alaska's high rate of recidivism, recently-released individuals must have access to a structured and sober environment, treatment, and employment opportunities. This fund is established to stimulate the creation of transitional re-entry programs for those recently released from prison.

Felony Theft Threshold was established at \$500 in 1978. The threshold has never been adjusted for inflation, despite \$500 being equal to \$1800 today. SB 64 increases the threshold from \$500 to \$1200

Custodial Interference: SB 64 creates a criminal offense of custodial interference in the second degree when a non-relative attempts to take a child from a lawful custodian. This section closes a statutory “loophole” and creates a more serious criminal offense for impersonating a parent or attempted child abduction.

Alaska Criminal Justice Commission to analyze and evaluate the effect of laws and practices within the state’s criminal justice system.

Credit for Time Served in Residential Treatment incentivizes people to seek and pay for their own treatment. A person will receive credit against a sentence for time spent in a residential treatment facility, but must remain on the grounds of the facility unless given permission to leave for purposes directly related to their treatment.

Expanding Assessments by requiring the Department of Corrections to conduct a risk-needs assessment on all offenders incarcerated 30 days or longer. This will help the department better understand the offender population and link inmates to treatment within the facilities.