

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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**REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON
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SPONSOR STATEMENT House Bill 108

**“An Act relating to electronic citations; creating the electronic citations fund;
and providing for an effective date.”**

House Bill 108 allows the Alaska State Troopers and municipal police departments to add a surcharge on traffic violation citations as a means of funding the use of electronic citation equipment to issue tickets. The Alaska State Troopers and the majority of the municipal police are using or starting to use electronic citation equipment to issue tickets. The equipment is very efficient and to date has been paid for mostly by federal grants (which will end), city taxes or municipal police department's budgets. This bill would assist the departments in paying annual fees and maintenance costs by passing that cost on to the offenders.

With paper citations when someone gets pulled over it takes almost 20 minutes for the officer to collect the necessary information needed to write a citation. Under the current system, once the officer turns the citations into the court, employees there need to scan it, read it and type the information into the system. This often takes up to 12 days before the ticket can be processed and paid for by the offender. With electronic citation equipment this process is dramatically reduced; the officer can print out a paper ticket, store all data electronically and the citizen can drive away in about 6 minutes. The citation is immediately updated in the state court system. This eliminates the time employees handle and process the citations. The offender can drive away, head to the local court house and pay their fine in the same day it was issued (if they so choose).

The electronic citation equipment has annual fees and maintenance costs. This surcharge on citations will be the means of paying for the equipment's annual costs and maintenance. The surcharge amounts will be distributed through the courts to the Department of Public Safety Electronic Citation Fund. The Department of Public Safety will distribute the funds.

This bill does not require any police department to add the surcharge to their citations and participate in the electronic citation program. However if a department elects to participate they will receive the amount needed to cover annual fees and maintenance costs of their electronic citation equipment.

