



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR JOHN COGHILL

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 64: An Act establishing the Alaska Sentencing Commission; relating to jail-time credit for offenders in court-ordered treatment programs; allowing a reduction of penalties for offenders successfully completing court-ordered treatment programs for person convicted of driving while under the influence or refusing to submit to a chemical test; relating to court termination of a revocation of a person's driver's license; relating to limitation of drivers' licenses; relating to restoration of a driver's license; relating to conditions of probation and parole; and providing for an effective date."

Senate Bill 64 ("SB 64") establishes the Alaska Sentencing Commission. The Commission is intended to review, analyze and evaluate the effect of sentencing laws and practices of the criminal justice system.

Additionally, SB 64 focuses on court-ordered treatment programs and limited licenses. Court-ordered treatment programs are an effective means of assisting and providing incentives for DUI offenders to seek treatment and become more productive members of society.

A misdemeanor offender may obtain a limited license provided they qualify for the program (after entering a plea of "guilty" or "no contest"). During the time they drive on the limited license, they shall be required to complete treatment pursuant to the direction of their assigned judge. If a misdemeanor successfully completes the program, drives on the limited license for a minimum period related to the offense, and does not re-offend, then their regular license revocation shall terminate. The misdemeanor shall then be able to obtain their regular license.

For felony offenders, the process is longer; however, it still provides felons incentive to seek treatment. Instead of a presumptive lifetime revocation of the driver's license, a felon can obtain a limited license (provided they undergo the treatment program with appropriate testing). The revocation for their regular license shall be terminated in 5 years, provided they safely drive on their limited license during that period and do not re-offend.

Please join Senator Coghill in supporting SB 64.