



DATE: 2/22/2015

TO: Representative Shelley Hughes

SUBJECT: HB9

INTRODUCTION: Dear Representative Hughes, my name is Robert Remy and I own and operate Alaska Investigations Group here in Anchorage, AK. Before I go on regarding my thoughts on HB9, I'd like to familiarize you with my background and experience. In short, I have a combined military and law enforcement community background of approximately 10 well spent years. My time spent allowed me to participate in a variety of assignments. Some of those assignments allowed me to provide intelligence support for the 212th Rescue Squadron, act as a NCOIC for the F-22 intelligence program, act as an intelligence specialist for a federal task force at the DEA and provided intelligence support at the FBI's Fusion Center. Frequently, my work was used by the DA's office to support the prosecution of several well known criminal violators. My educational background consists of an Associates Degree in Communications Technology and a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. My work and education have largely contributed to my success as a PI here in Anchorage. I am appropriately licensed as a PI in Anchorage and my business licenses are active and current.

SPONSOR STATEMENT: I'd like to point out some information that may be worth considering regarding your sponsor statement and some information that will hopefully provide you with a 360 degree perspective regarding HB9. I had contacted the Municipal Clerk before writing this letter to determine why a felon had been appropriately licensed by the Municipality as a PI. The response from the clerk was provided was as follows:

**“10.40.020C states:**

**Qualifications of employees. No private detective agency may employ a person as a private detective unless the person:**

- 1. Is 18 years of age or older.**
- 2. Is not addicted to narcotics, dangerous drugs or intoxicants.**
- 3. Has not been convicted of a felony within two years, nor of a misdemeanor involving assault or dangerous weapons within one year.**
- 4. Has not been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, assault with a dangerous weapon, traffic in narcotics or dangerous drugs or traffic in women for immoral purposes within ten years.**

**On his application, he denies conviction within the last ten years and documentation in his file indicates he had no criminal background in the state of Alaska at time of licensure and that adjudication for a situation in Georgia was took place on 2/10/1995, so we could not deny licensure.”**

My initial thoughts is that of course it's hard to accept any felon acting as a licensed private investigator; which I can understand your concern; however, I don't feel this one time occurrence is a valid enough occurrence to justify state licensing action. The reason I feel this way is because the error, if any, lies in the way 10.40.020C is written. I feel that the appropriate course of action is to amend or change 10.40.020C via the municipality to restrict felons from becoming licensed PI's..

This now leads me into my next point. Licensing already exists in Anchorage and Fairbanks. HB9 is mostly redundant. Quite frankly, it doesn't make much sense to me and several of my colleagues to pass new laws to duplicate the laws that already exist. I know a large concern is how do we correct unscrupulous PI's? My answer to that question is that consumers are already protected via small claims court, Alaska Department of Law Civil Division and the State investigators under CBPL. Our state and local governments already have the necessary

means to suspend or revoke a PI's license and/or business license. It would not be very hard to discipline a PI for illegal or unethical behavior.

I've kept abreast with our State budget as of late which included cuts to manpower and resources. I don't see how we can responsibly fund and sustain a redundant PI licensing program. I also don't foresee how anyone can predict PI licensing costs without the fee's becoming some sort of arbitrary figure. Managing a PI program would take a lot of effort; such as processing applications, issuing licenses then enforcement. A fear that I have is that the licensing costs will be somewhat expensive, and quite possibly continue to increase as time goes as is the case in many other states. HB9 would make it far more difficult for prospective PI's looking to start here in Alaska who simply wish to make a living.

In conclusion, I wanted to keep this letter short. I trust that you will consider my input. I will be available for any phone calls or emails if you wish to ask any questions to me directly.

Sincerely,

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