

Representative Cathy Tilton

Alaska State Legislature – House District 12



SPONSOR STATEMENT

CS for HB 93(STA): “An Act relating to the duties of probation officers; and relating to conditions of parole.”

CSHB 93 (“HB 93”) addresses a recognized societal goal of helping former prisoners attain gainful employment and reestablish themselves as contributing members to society. This is an effort to not only restore lives, but save the public from the great costs associated with recidivism.

HB 93 makes it clear that probation and parole officers shall accommodate the diligent efforts of probationers to secure and maintain employment, by being flexible to probationers’ work schedule when prescribing the times when a probationer shall report. It permits probationers to travel in the state to make diligent efforts to secure and maintain employment if the travel is not inconsistent with other terms and conditions of probation.

Additionally, HB 93 provides conforming language that states that the parole board may require as a condition of special medical, discretionary, or mandatory parole, that a prisoner released on parole may only refrain from traveling in the state to make diligent efforts to secure or maintain steady employment if the travel violates other conditions of the court-ordered sentence.

HB 93 is in line with our efforts to address the high cost of prison time, and is in response to the ongoing efforts of the Alaska Legislature to enact “smart justice” legislation.