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SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSHB 15

**“An Act relating to credits toward a sentence
of imprisonment for certain persons under electronic monitoring.”**

The state of Alaska faces rising incarceration costs, growing correctional populations, and declining financial resources. To face this challenge, Alaska must seek out alternatives which maximizes state financial resources while providing needed services. It is the purpose of HB 15 to grant credit against a sentence of imprisonment, if convicted, for time spent in a treatment program or under electronic monitoring.

Electronic monitoring (EM) is a tool utilized by the Department of Corrections (DOC) and private electronic monitoring companies that provides cost effective supervision of an alleged offender. The EM program allows qualified individuals to serve time at home while adhering to the program conditions. Qualified individuals can gain access to community-based treatment, maintain employment, access medical treatment and perform community service work. The ability to grant credit against a sentence of imprisonment for time spent under supervision of electronic monitoring or within a treatment program can potentially save the State millions of dollars a year while allowing citizens to continue to be productive while awaiting trial.

Thank you for your support of CSHB 15.