



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Public Safety**

ALASKA POLICE STANDARDS COUNCIL

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January 31, 2017

Rep. Steve Thompson  
State Capitol Room 500  
Juneau AK, 99801

Via: E-Mail [Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov)

RE: Support for HB 16

Dear Representative Thompson,

As the Chairman for The Alaska Police Standards Council I strongly support educating criminal justice professionals in how to recognize and more effectively deal with individuals with disabilities. In fact in my own department, The Juneau Police Department, I have instituted the Crisis Intervention Model and we do extensive training on this subject.

For your consideration, as a friendly house-cleaning measure; I suggest that when a citizen is looking in statute for what training requirements there might be for public safety that the most logical statute would be in AS 18.65.230, Training programs; or AS 18.65.240, Standards, where the current domestic violence training requirements for police officers resides.

I do not feel that adding training requirements to AS 18.65.220 Powers, is consistent with the other content of that section and could possibly complicate or muddy the Council's currently well-defined powers and authority.

Currently, AS 18.65.230. Training programs, reads:

*The council shall establish and maintain police training programs, probation and parole officer training programs, and correctional training programs through those agencies and institutions that the council considers appropriate.*

This section could easily be amended by adding:

**Basic training programs established under this paragraph must include training in**

- (A) recognizing people with disabilities;**
- (B) appropriate interactions with persons with disabilities;**
- (C) resources available to persons with disabilities and to those interacting with persons with disabilities; and**
- (D) the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12131 - 12165;**

Alternatively, Section AS 18.65.240. Standards. Currently reads:

*(a) A person may not be appointed as a police officer, except on a probationary basis, unless the person (1) has satisfactorily completed a basic program of police training approved by the council, which includes at least 12 hours of instruction regarding domestic violence as defined in AS 18.66.990 , and (2) possesses other qualifications the council has established for the employment of police officers, including minimum age, education, physical and mental standards, citizenship, moral character, and experience. The council shall prescribe the means of presenting evidence of fulfillment of these requirements. ...*

A similar amendment could affect the same change by amending the language to read:

(a) A person may not be appointed as a police, **probation, parole, corrections, or municipal corrections officer**, except on a probationary basis, unless the person (1) has satisfactorily completed a basic program of [POLICE] training approved by the council, which includes:

- (A)** at least 12 hours of instruction regarding domestic violence as defined in AS 18.66.990
- (B)** **instruction in recognizing people with disabilities; appropriate interactions with persons with disabilities; resources available to persons with disabilities and to those interacting with persons with disabilities; and the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12131 - 12165; and**

(2) possesses other qualifications the council has established for the employment of police, **probation, parole, corrections, or municipal corrections** officers, including minimum age, education, physical and mental standards, citizenship, moral character, and experience. The council shall prescribe the means of presenting evidence of fulfillment of these requirements. ...

Thank you for your consideration. I am available if you desire additional information or wish to discuss any of our suggestions in more detail.



Chief Bryce Johnson  
Chairman  
Alaska Police Standards Council

CC: Executive Director Varni, LAA



February 7, 2017

The Honorable Steve Thompson  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol Room 500  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Thompson:

On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), I am writing to convey concern with HB 16, "An Act relating to training regarding disabilities for police officers, probation officers, parole officers, correctional officers, and village public safety officers; relating to guidelines for drivers when encountering or being stopped by a peace officer; relating to driver's license examinations; and relating to a voluntary disability designation on a state identification card and a driver's license."

The APOA board of directors recently reviewed this bill and unanimously oppose. While we are sensitive to our state citizens' disabilities, APOA does not believe it would be appropriate to legislate training requirements and ultimately costs for police departments. The bill mandates ongoing in-service training requirements already put forth by law enforcement agencies which provide training and guidelines through departmental policy and procedure.

Please contact the APOA office in Anchorage at 277-0515 if you have questions about APOA's position on HB 16.

Sincerely,

Brad Johnson  
State President  
Alaska Peace Officers Association

PO Box 240106  
Anchorage, AK 99524  
[apoa@gci.net](mailto:apoa@gci.net)  
(907)277-0515

*About APOA*

*The Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) is a dynamic, professional and non-partisan organization. Our membership consists of law enforcement, corrections, prosecutors, security professionals and others at the local, state and federal levels. APOA has served as a voice for peace officers and issues impacting the law enforcement profession for over half a century. We are one of the oldest and largest 501c(3) charitable, nonprofit organizations in Alaska. [www.apoaonline.org](http://www.apoaonline.org)*

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON HOUSE DISTRICT 2

January 31, 2017

Alaska Police Standards Council  
PO Box 111200  
Juneau, AK 99811

Via: E-Mail [Bob.Griffiths@alaska.gov](mailto:Bob.Griffiths@alaska.gov)

Attn: Chairman Johnson and Members of Alaska Police Standards Council

RE: Moving Training Component from AS 18.65.220 to AS 18.65.230 or AS 18.65.240

Dear Mr. Griffiths and Chairman Johnson,

Thank you for your letters of support for HB 16-Driv.License Req;Disability:ID & Training. My office has been reviewing your suggestion that we move the training component of the bill from the Powers section of the statutes [AS 18.65.220] to either the Training programs [AS 18.65.230] or to the Standards' section of the statutes [AS 18.65.240]. After both a thorough review and a consultation with Legislative Legal, we have determined that the training component is best served by remaining in Sec 18.65.220. Powers.

The Powers' section of the statutes gives the Council the power to set the curriculum and to standardize the disabilities' training which can then be incorporated into existing peace officer training courses or programs, or other in-service programs. The Council would have more flexibility to outline how the training could be provided, be it by a specialized training, an in-service training, or another method that the Council deems appropriate.

Conversely, if the training component was added to AS 18.65.230, the Training Program section, the Council would no longer have the power to set the curriculum for the training component offered by other entities.

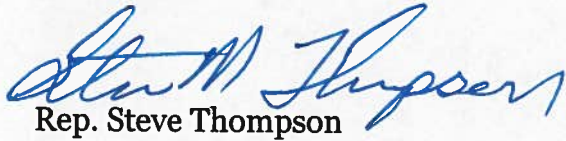
E-Mail: [Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov)

The Standards' section [AS 18.65.240] limits the training to new peace officers. This limits the training to a one-time training to become a certified police officer.

While it is possible to move the training component to either of these other two sections, the policy effects and fiscal impacts will be different. As the bill stands in its current version, the Council has the power to set curriculum and to set the standards for not only peace officers but also for probation officers, parole officers, municipal correctional officers and correctional officers.

Your support for HB 16 is very much appreciated and we value the input and suggestions that you have given to us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Thompson".

Rep. Steve Thompson