



Public Safety Employees Association, Inc.
"Representing Alaska's Finest"
Local 803



Public Safety Employees Association Position Paper
Supporting SB 33

The Public Safety Employees Association is pleased to support SB 32. This bill modifies pretrial release. This bill addresses bail, arraignment, pretrial services, encourages the use of video-teleconferencing, electric monitoring and treatment while on pretrial release.

Currently, the State of Alaska is not economically efficient in how it handles pretrial services; by requiring prisoner transport of all pretrial court hearings the state obligates itself to pay additional costs associated with the prisoner transports. Additionally, courts are forced to use a risk assessment tool to determine a person's risk and are required to release offenders who are assessed as a low-moderate risk. This undermined the court's ability to use discretion and weigh each case on its own merits. SB 33 will provide for greater safety to Alaskans and is fiscally responsibly by:

Bail – Returning the court's discretion by eliminating the risk assessment tool and reestablishing the presumption of public safety focus for bail and release, limits the number of hearings and removes the inability to pay as a reason for the court to review a bail setting.

Pre-trial Enforcement Division – dissolving the PED unit and allowing probation officers the authority to supervise pre-trial and to allow Department of Corrections to contract for electronic monitoring by private companies will increase both procedural and financial efficiency.

Arraignment – Return to requiring arraignments to occur within 48 hours of arrest instead of 24 hours.

Jail Credit for Pre-trial EM and Treatment – Return to not allowing electronic monitoring as eligible for jail credit and capping the credit for time spent in a treatment facility at six months.

Videoconferencing – Encourages the use of videoconferencing for all pretrial hearings for all in custody defendants. This will bring Alaska in line with how pretrial hearings are conducted in most other areas of the country and will be not only a cost saving measure for the state but will increase the safety for in custody defendants and the public alike.

The Public Safety Employees Association believes that SB 33 is fiscally responsible and takes steps in increasing public safety by addressing bail, jail credit, streamlining pre-trial enforcement and procedures.

PSEA encourages the passage of SB 33.