

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ZACK FIELDS

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## House Bill 118

### Sponsor Statement

*“An Act relating to the duties of the commissioner of corrections; and relating to planning for prisoner reentry.”*

Reentry services have been shown to reduce recidivism, improve access to services, better public health outcomes, and increase public safety.

Reentry Coalitions help reduce crime and recidivism by helping reentrants find jobs, housing, treatment and health insurance after incarceration. Reentry Coalitions also serve as the point of contact for the Department of Corrections and its partners.

This bill requires that a written case plan take effect within 90 days after a prisoner’s sentencing. The bill ensures that the Department of Corrections collaborates with community reentry coalitions and other providers of reentry services when developing a written case plan for prisoners.

This bill also establishes new metrics tracking the results of the program that conducts assessments of the risks and needs of offenders. The report must include the number of prisoners provided written case plans and the percentage of the target population that number represents, in addition to the number of written case plans initiated within the preceding year, and the number of written case plans that were updated in the preceding year.

Rates of recidivism in Alaska are declining and it is important that we continue this trend. In any given year, approximately 25% of prisoners will return to incarceration within six months of being released. More than 40% of those released will return within a year. Expanding reentry efforts is an important part of our broader efforts to reduce criminal recidivism and improve public safety across Alaska.