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Governor Michael J. Dunleavy  
STATE OF ALASKA

January 24, 2020

The Honorable Cathy Giessel  
Senate President  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 111  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Giessel:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to Police Standards in Alaska. This bill will ensure that Alaska has rigorous, enforceable standards for the employment of police and village police officers throughout Alaska.

The bill proposes amendments to AS 18.65, Police Protection, to provide that a person may not be appointed as a police or village police officer if the person has been convicted of a felony, a sex offense defined in AS 12.63.100, or a crime involving domestic violence as defined in AS 18.66.990. The legislation further clarifies that the Alaska Police Standards Council has the power to set standards for employment for village police officers by regulation and may investigate when there is reason to believe an officer or a village police officer does not meet minimum standards for employment. In addition, this bill would include a definition for village police officer in statute.

Establishing in law the standards and qualifications for the employment of police and village police officers, will ensure that individuals who are appointed to these important positions of trust and authority in our communities, are qualified to hold such a position.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this important public safety measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy  
Governor

Enclosure

**SENATE BILL NO.**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced:

Referred:

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

**"An Act relating to the crime of impersonating a peace officer; relating to the powers of the Alaska Police Standards Council; relating to the definition of 'village police officer'; and providing for an effective date."**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

**\* Section 1.** AS 11.56.827 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) It is not a defense to a prosecution under this section that the person was employed as a peace officer at the time of the offense.

**\* Sec. 2.** AS 11.81.900(b)(46) is amended to read:

(46) "peace officer" means a public servant vested by law with a duty to maintain public order or to make arrests, whether the duty extends to all offenses or is limited to a specific class of offenses or offenders; **"peace officer" does not include a person who has been convicted of**

**(A) a felony in this or another jurisdiction;**

**(B) a sex offense as defined in AS 12.63.100, or a similar law**

1 of another jurisdiction;

2 (C) a crime involving domestic violence as defined in

3 AS 18.66.990 or a similar law of another jurisdiction;

4 \* Sec. 3. AS 12.62.400(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) To obtain a national criminal history record check for determining a  
6 person's qualifications for a license, permit, registration, employment, or position, a  
7 person shall submit the person's fingerprints to the department with the fee established  
8 by AS 12.62.160. The department may submit the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau  
9 of Investigation to obtain a national criminal history record check of the person for the  
10 purpose of evaluating a person's qualifications for

11 (1) a license or conditional contractor's permit to manufacture, sell,  
12 offer for sale, possess for sale or barter, traffic in, or barter an alcoholic beverage  
13 under AS 04.11;

14 (2) licensure as a mortgage lender, a mortgage broker, or a mortgage  
15 loan originator under AS 06.60;

16 (3) admission to the Alaska Bar Association under AS 08.08;

17 (4) licensure as a collection agency operator under AS 08.24;

18 (5) a certificate of fitness to handle explosives under AS 08.52;

19 (6) licensure as a massage therapist under AS 08.61;

20 (7) licensure to practice nursing or certification as a nurse aide under  
21 AS 08.68;

22 (8) certification as a real estate appraiser under as 08.87;

23 (9) a position involving supervisory or disciplinary power over a minor  
24 or dependent adult for which criminal justice information may be released under  
25 AS 12.62.160(b)(9);

26 (10) a teacher certificate under AS 14.20;

27 (11) a registration or license to operate a marijuana establishment  
28 under AS 17.38;

29 (12) admittance to a police training program under AS 18.65.230 or for  
30 certification as a police officer or village police officer under AS 18.65.240 if that  
31 person's prospective employer does not have access to a criminal justice information

1 system;

2 (13) licensure as a security guard under AS 18.65.400 - 18.65.490;

3 (14) a concealed handgun permit under AS 18.65.700 - 18.65.790;

4 (15) licensure as an insurance producer, managing general agent,  
5 reinsurance intermediary broker, reinsurance intermediary manager, surplus lines  
6 broker, or independent adjuster under AS 21.27;

7 (16) serving and executing process issued by a court by a person  
8 designated under AS 22.20.130;

9 (17) a school bus driver license under AS 28.15.046;

10 (18) licensure as an operator or an instructor for a commercial driver  
11 training school under AS 28.17;

12 (19) registration as a broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser  
13 representative, or investment adviser under AS 45.56.300 - 45.56.350;

14 (20) licensure, license renewal, certification, certification renewal, or  
15 payment from the Department of Health and Social Services of an individual and an  
16 entity subject to the requirements for a criminal history check under AS 47.05.310,  
17 including

18 (A) a public home care provider described in AS 47.05.017;

19 (B) a provider of home and community-based waiver services  
20 financed under AS 47.07.030(c);

21 (C) a case manager to coordinate community mental health  
22 services under AS 47.30.530;

23 (D) an entity listed in AS 47.32.010(b), including an owner,  
24 officer, director, member, partner, employee, volunteer, or contractor of an  
25 entity; or

26 (E) an individual or entity not described in (A) - (D) of this  
27 paragraph that is required by statute or regulation to be licensed or certified by  
28 the Department of Health and Social Services or that is eligible to receive  
29 payments, in whole or in part, from the Department of Health and Social  
30 Services to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of persons who are  
31 served by the programs administered by the Department of Health and Social

Services.

\* **Sec. 4.** AS 18.65.220 is amended to read:

**Sec. 18.65.220. Powers.** The council has the power to

(1) adopt regulations for the administration of AS 18.65.130 - 18.65.290;

(2) establish minimum standards for employment as a police officer, village police officer, probation officer, parole officer, municipal correctional officer, and correctional officer in a permanent or probationary position and certify persons to be qualified as police officers, village police officers, probation officers, parole officers, municipal correctional officers, and correctional officers under AS 18.65.130 - 18.65.290;

(3) establish minimum criminal justice curriculum requirements for basic, specialized, and in-service courses and programs for schools operated by or for the state or a political subdivision of the state for the specific purpose of training police recruits, police officers, village police officer recruits, village police officers, probation officers, parole officers, municipal correctional officers, and correctional officers; the curriculum requirements established under this paragraph must include training in

(A) recognizing persons 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 42 U.S.C. 12131 - 12165 (Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990);

(4) consult and cooperate with municipalities, agencies of the state, other governmental agencies, universities, colleges, and other institutions concerning the development of police officer, village police officer, probation officer, parole officer, municipal correctional officer, and correctional officer training schools and programs of criminal justice instruction;

(5) employ an administrator and other persons necessary to carry out its duties under AS 18.65.130 - 18.65.290;

(6) investigate when there is reason to believe that a police officer, **village police officer**, probation officer, parole officer, municipal correctional officer, or correctional officer does not meet the minimum standards for employment; in connection with the investigation the council may subpoena persons, books, records, or documents related to the investigation and require answers in writing under oath to questions asked by the council or the administrator;

(7) charge and collect a fee of \$50 for processing applications for certification of police, probation, parole, municipal correctional, and correctional officers;

(8) require a state and national criminal history record check for an applicant to a training program established in AS 18.65.230 and for a person to be certified as a police officer **or village police officer** under AS 18.65.240 if that person's prospective employer does not have access to a criminal justice information system.

\* **Sec. 5.** AS 18.65.230(b) is amended to read:

(b) To determine a person's qualification for appointment [AS A POLICE OFFICER] under AS 18.65.240, each person who applies for admittance to a basic program of police training established under this section shall submit to the council the person's fingerprints along with the fee established in AS 12.62.160 unless the person's fingerprints were previously submitted by the person's prospective employer. The Department of Public Safety shall conduct a state criminal history record check and may submit the person's fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to obtain a national criminal history record check of the person under AS 12.62.400 for the purpose of evaluating the person's qualifications for appointment [AS A POLICE OFFICER] under AS 18.65.240.

\* **Sec. 6.** AS 18.65.240(a) is amended to read:

(a) **Subject to (e) of this section, a** [A] person may not be appointed as a police officer **or village 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 and at least 12 hours of instruction regarding sexual assault, as those terms

are 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.

\* **Sec. 7.** AS 18.65.240 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(e) A person may not be appointed as a police officer or village police officer, permanently or on a probationary basis, if that person has been convicted of

(1) a felony in this or another jurisdiction;

(2) a sex offense as defined in AS 12.63.100, or a similar law of another jurisdiction;

(3) a crime involving domestic violence as defined in AS 18.66.990, or a similar law of another jurisdiction.

(f) The council shall establish standards for village police officers by regulation.

\* **Sec. 8.** AS 18.65.290 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(10) "village police officer" means an employee of an incorporated city or municipality residing off of the contiguous Alaska road system with a population of less than 2000 based on the most recent federal census, with the authority to arrest and issue citations; detain a person taken into custody until that person can be arraigned before a judge or magistrate; conduct investigations of violations of and enforce criminal laws, regulations, and traffic laws; search with or without a warrant persons, dwellings, and other forms of property for evidence of a crime; and take other action consistent with exercise of these enumerated powers when necessary to maintain the public peace.

\* **Sec. 9.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. AS 11.56.827, as amended by sec. 1 of this Act, and AS 11.81.900, as amended by sec. 2 of this Act, apply to offenses committed on or after the effective date of this Act.

\* **Sec. 10.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2020 Legislative Session

Bill Version: GB 69  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: 4099-DPS-APSC-01-10-20  
Title: Standards for Police Officers  
Sponsor: Rules by Request of the Governor  
Requester: Governor

Department: Department of Public Safety  
Appropriation: Alaska Police Standards Council  
Allocation: Alaska Police Standards Council  
OMB Component Number: 519

## Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

(Thousands of Dollars)

|                        | FY2021<br>Appropriation<br>Requested | Included in<br>Governor's<br>FY2021<br>Request | Out-Year Cost Estimates |            |            |            |            |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2021                              | FY 2021                                        | FY 2022                 | FY 2023    | FY 2024    | FY 2025    | FY 2026    |
| Personal Services      |                                      |                                                |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Travel                 |                                      |                                                |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Services               |                                      |                                                |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Commodities            |                                      |                                                |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Capital Outlay         |                                      |                                                |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Grants & Benefits      |                                      |                                                |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Miscellaneous          |                                      |                                                |                         |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Total Operating</b> | <b>0.0</b>                           | <b>0.0</b>                                     | <b>0.0</b>              | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

## Fund Source (Operating Only)

|              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None         |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

## Positions

|           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Part-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Temporary |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Change in Revenues

|              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None         |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2020) cost:** 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2021) cost:** 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)

**Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account?** No  
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

## ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/20

## Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: Kelly Howell, Special Assistant to the Commissioner  
Division: Office of the Commissioner  
Approved By: Casey Bluhm, Program Budget Analyst IV  
Agency: Office of Management and Budget

Phone: (907)269-5591  
Date: 01/10/2020 04:00 PM  
Date: 01/13/20

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. 0 \_\_\_\_\_

### Analysis

This bill amends statutes relating to standards for police officers to clarify that no person may be appointed as a police officer, including a village police officer, if they have been convicted in Alaska or any other jurisdiction of a felony, a sex offense as defined under AS 12.63.100, or a crime involving domestic violence as defined under AS 18.66.990. This bill further amends definitions under criminal law to specifically exclude persons with disqualifying criminal history from the definition of "peace officer," provides the Department of Public Safety the authority to request national criminal history background checks from the Federal Bureau of Investigation for purposes of employment as a village police officer, and clarifies that the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) shall establish standards for village police officers by regulation.

The APSC is responsible to determine certification eligibility for all police, probation and parole, and correctional officers in Alaska. Should this bill pass, APSC's workload is expected to increase as a result of enforcing certification eligibility for village police officers. However, the additional workload can be absorbed within existing resources. Therefore, a zero fiscal note is being submitted.

Additionally, a regulations project is currently underway and are expected to be adopted by July 1, 2020.