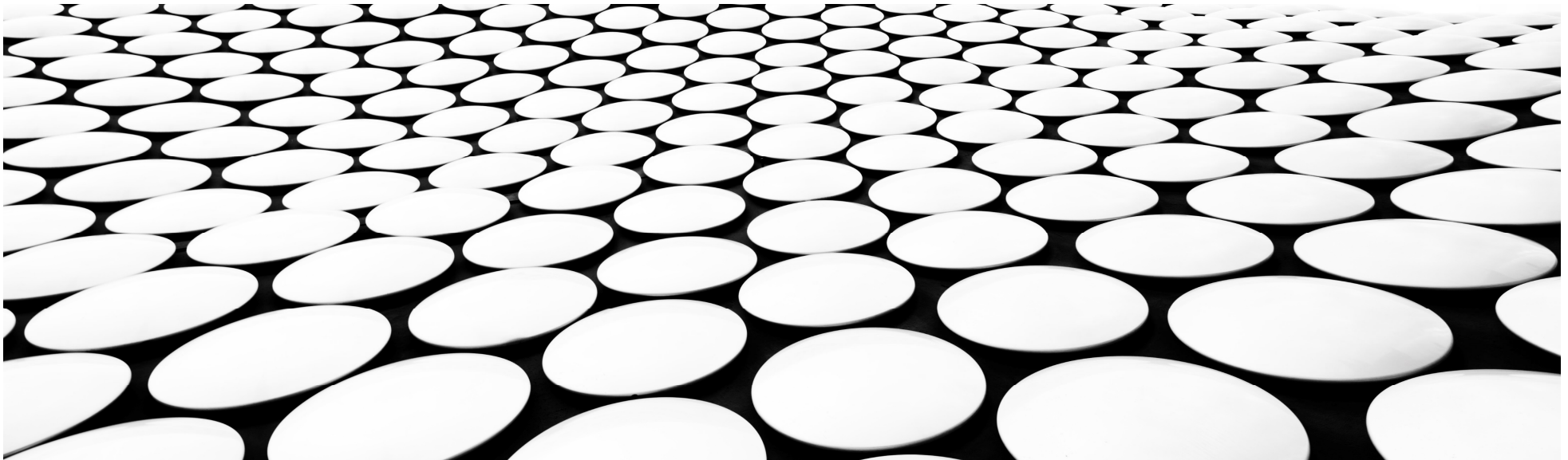


---

# **HB 287 VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM UPDATES**

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRIBAL AFFAIRS

MARCH 3, 2020



---

## VPSO GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS

Chugachmiut.

Copper River Native Association

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association

Kodiak Area Native Association

Kawerak

Northwest Arctic Borough

Association of Village Council Presidents

Bristol Bay Native Association

Tanana Chiefs Association

Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

---

## FROM WORKING GROUP TO BILL INTRODUCTION

May 9, 2019, Senate President and House Speaker create VPSO Working group

Working Group Activities August 2019 – January 2020

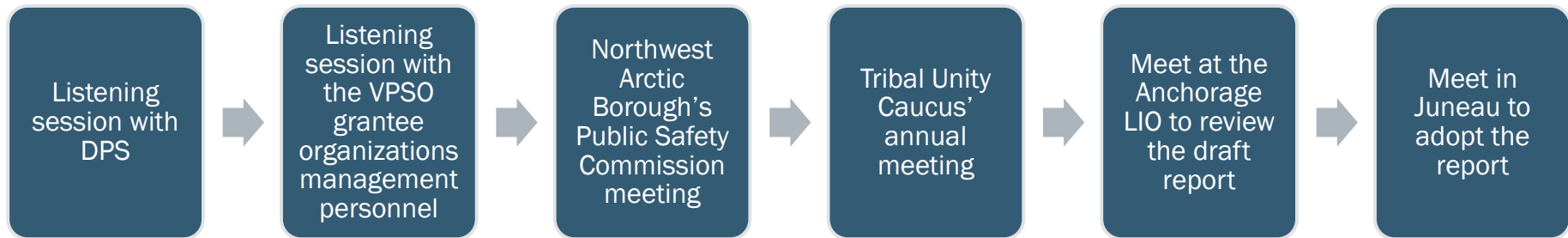
Working Group Report 1<sup>st</sup> Draft January 9, 2020

Working Group Adopt Report  
January 24, 2020

HB 287  
February 24, 2020

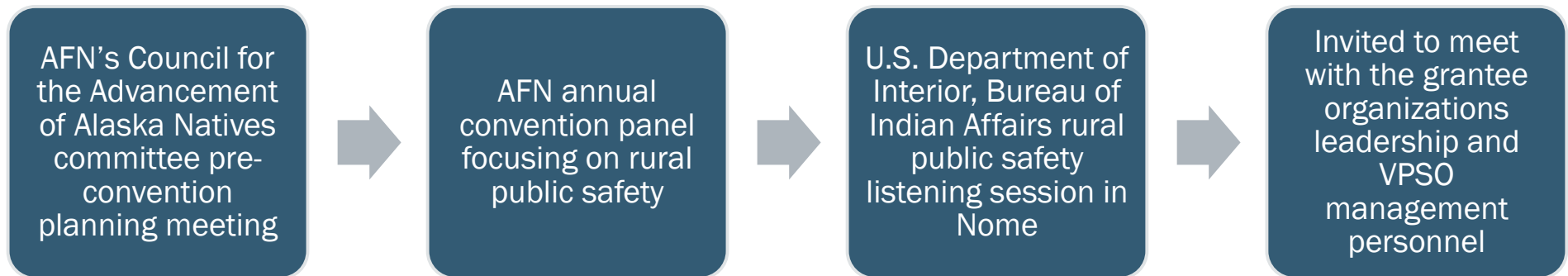
---

## FULL WORK GROUP ACTIVITIES



---

## CO-CHAIR ACTIVITIES



---

## VPSO WORKING GROUP LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS: 4

Continue working with federal partners on:

- Training: with formal state tribal recognition, tribes may be able access federal law enforcement training programs;
- Greater recurring federal funds for public safety: Alaska is a Federal P.L. 280 state where states have concurrent criminal jurisdiction with Tribes, unlike non-P.L.280 states. The BIA historically does not request tribal court or law enforcement appropriations for P.L 280 states, making the law an unfunded mandate for P.L. 280 tribes and states.

Explore passing a state version of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. If passed, the state could formally compact with tribes and offer the maximum amount of program design/redesign and financial flexibility for the various VPSO grantees.

Consider creating upward mobility for VPSO positions: either through compacting or state statutory changes or both, consider providing for different levels of VPSO personnel related to levels of training; the highest VPSO level being equivalent in function, training, and pay to a State Trooper.

Work to define the true cost of providing fully operational public safety services throughout rural Alaska.

---

## WORKING GROUP SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATIONS: 9

### Recommendation 1.

Update the VPSO statutes to provide a clear law enforcement and public safety vision and mission for the program and provide VPSO personnel clear law enforcement duties and powers.

### Recommendation 2.

Create more financial flexibility for the VPSO grantee organizations in the updated VPSO statutes.

### Recommendation 3.

Restore VPSO funding levels to FY18 levels.

---

## WORKING GROUP SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendation 4.

Fund unfunded mandates.

### Recommendation 5.

Related to Recommendation 4, in an updated VPSO statute, mandate that grant awards pay grantee organization their full indirect costs.

### Recommendation 6.

Move financial grant management to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.



---

## WORKING GROUP SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendation 7.

Maintain operational advisory, training, and experience requirement oversight at the Department of Public Safety.

### Recommendation 8.

In statute create a Tribal/Grantee organization consultation process before the Department can change training and experience requirements.

### Recommendation 9.

Revised versions (consistent with the recommendations of the Working Group report) of current VPSO regulations need to be placed in statute in order to operationalize the VPSO program and to facilitate the grant management moving to the Department of Commerce.

### **Recommendation 1**

Update the VPSO statutes to provide a clear law enforcement and public safety vision and mission for the program and provide VPSO personnel clear law enforcement duties and powers.

### **Recommendation 2**

Create more financial flexibility for the VPSO grantee organizations in the updated VPSO statutes.

### **Recommendation 3**

Restore VPSO funding levels to FY18 levels.

### **Recommendation 4**

Fund unfunded mandates.

### **Recommendation 5**

Related to Recommendation 4, in an updated VPSO statute, mandate that grant awards pay grantee organization their full indirect costs.

### **Recommendation 6**

Move financial grant management to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

### **Recommendation 7**

Maintain operational advisory, training, and experience requirement oversight at the Department of Public Safety.

### **Recommendation 8**

In statute create a Tribal/Grantee organization consultation process before the Department can change training and experience requirements.

### **Recommendation 9**

Revised versions (consistent with the recommendations of the Working Group report) of current VPSO regulations need to be placed in statute in order to operationalize the VPSO program and to facilitate the grant management moving to the Department of Commerce.