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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Louise Stutes
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Stutes:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill updating the timeframes for reporting missing persons under the age of 21 to state and national databases.

Recent changes in Federal law require all law enforcement agencies to complete and transmit reports of missing persons under the age of 21 into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) no more than two hours after a person has been reported missing. Time is of the essence in cases involving this vulnerable population in order to marshal quickly as many resources as possible to search for the missing person. Current state law gives law enforcement 24 hours to enter a missing person's report into the Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) and the NCIC, and only on persons under the age of 18. The bill amends AS 18.65.620 and AS 47.10.141 to bring state law in line with federal requirements, and to align with the current practice of Alaska's law enforcement agencies.

Persons under the age of 21 who go missing are at an increased risk of being harmed. It is crucial that reports are met with urgency. The bill will bring Alaska into federal compliance and ensure that we are leveraging state and national databases to bring these young people home safely.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

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

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure