



Representative Carolyn Hall

House District 16 | Turnagain, Spenard and Sand Lake

HB 222

Sponsor Statement

May 15th, 2026

Version T

"An Act relating to workplace violence protective orders; relating to the crime of violating a protective order; relating to the powers of district judges and magistrates; amending Rules 4 and 65, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rule 9, Alaska Rules of Administration; and providing for an effective date."

In Alaska, there is a growing number of cases of individuals making credible threats of violence or even committing violence against shelters run by victim counseling centers (VCCs). The shelters run by VCCs, like Abused Women Aid In Crisis (AWAIC) in Anchorage or the Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC) in Bethel, prevent violence, provide counseling, and uplift those suffering from domestic violence and sexual assault. When individuals threaten or commit an act against these shelters, they undermine the shelter's ability to support those in need.

Though there are some legal remedies for VCCs, such as trespass laws, they are often insufficient to provide timely and effective protection. In contrast, people seeking a protective order can usually get the court order within one day, and the order can be tailored to their specific situation. However, there is currently no protective order available to shelters to protect their workplaces and employees.

HB 222 creates a new class of protective orders for VCCs. This bill is modeled after Alaska's domestic violence protective order process, and allows an employer at a VCC to file a petition for a protective order against an individual who the employer reasonably believes committed an act of violence against the employer or an employee or made a threat of violence against the employer or an employee that can reasonably be construed as a threat to the employer's workplace. Additionally, HB 222 will prohibit attorney fee awards against the petitioner in domestic violence restraining order proceedings, stalking and sexual assault protective orders, and ex parte protective orders, removing barriers for victims to come forward and seek essential protective orders. Finally, HB 222 gives judges the discretion to extend protective orders for up to 5 years. This will give people seeking to renew protective orders relief from the burden of having to renew an order every year and align Alaska's practices with those of other states.

HB 222 provides a missing legal tool to Alaska's victim counseling centers and improves the process for those seeking a protective order. People experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault are some of the state's most vulnerable petitioners, and they deserve a legal system that works for them. I urge support for HB 222.