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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

January 23, 2025

The Honorable Gary Stevens
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill allowing the Department of Corrections to enter into agreements with municipalities to provide pretrial supervision services for defendants charged with violating municipal or borough laws.

When it was established in 2018, the pretrial services program was aimed at providing risk assessments for defendants who have been charged, making release recommendations to the court, and providing pretrial supervision of defendants when ordered by the court. Currently, the State bears all the costs of pretrial supervision, even for those defendants charged only with municipal or borough offenses. This legislation will allow the Department of Corrections to enter into agreements with municipalities that would like to continue to have certain defendants charged with violating the laws of that jurisdiction supervised before trial. As a part of those agreements, the Department will be able to charge reasonable fees in order to recoup some of the costs of providing the service to municipalities.

Evaluating the costs of providing certain services on behalf of other jurisdictions is prudent. Allowing the Department of Corrections to continue to provide an important service while recovering some of the costs associated with providing that service is a reasonable approach, which will help ensure that this service is available for years to come.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Mike Dunleavy, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure