



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement

HB 330 An Act relating to the use and possession of electronic devices by prisoners.

“An Act relating to the use and possession of electronic devices by prisoners.”

House Bill 330 embodies a common-sense and impactful approach to correctional reform. By authorizing institutions to provide prisoners with restricted access to tablets for education, reentry, and essential life purposes, this legislation extends opportunity and a path toward successfully reintegrating into society without the likelihood of future criminal activity. This strategy for preparing prisoners for successful reentry isn't primarily rooted in compassion; it's also a strategic public safety measure.

Recognizing the pivotal role education plays in breaking the criminal cycle, HB 330 enables access to limitless educational and programming resources through tablets. By acknowledging the transformative influence of learning in the rehabilitation process, the bill prioritizes the State's long-term goal of reintegrating individuals into society as productive and law-abiding citizens, thereby preventing future crimes and avoiding any future victims.

Allowing inmates restricted access to tablets does not constitute a luxury or reward. To the contrary, in our digital era, investing in education and rehabilitation through technology isn't about being soft on crime; it's about tackling the underlying causes of criminal behavior, thereby reducing recidivism rates and preventing new crimes.

Research consistently underscores how effective education is in reducing the likelihood of an individual committing a new crime. By equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills required for a constructive life, HB 330 not only enhances public safety but also alleviates the financial strain linked with incarcerating repeat offenders. The resultant cost savings could potentially rescue the state millions of dollars in the long run, rendering this legislation a prudent investment in societal well-being.