



## 33<sup>RD</sup> ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE CRAIG JOHNSON  
HOUSE DISTRICT 10  
CHAIR, HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

### **House Bill 398: "An Act relating to controlled substances."**

#### *Sponsor Statement*

House Bill 398 amends existing laws regarding drug-free zones that prohibit controlled substances in certain areas within a municipality. HB 398 enhances the protection of vulnerable groups, including children, homeless individuals, and those recovering from drug abuse, while also helping communities reclaim their public spaces from drug-related activities.

HB 398 designates that within 500 feet of daycare centers, shelters for the homeless, and treatment and rehabilitation centers as additional drug-free zones, alongside the already included schools, school buses, and recreation or youth centers. By prohibiting the delivery, possession, and manufacture of controlled substances within specified distances of these locations, HB 398 seeks to safeguard vulnerable populations, such as children and individuals in recovery, from exposure to drugs and drug-related activities that could jeopardize their well-being and undermine community safety.

Furthermore, HB 398 amends affirmative defense section of statute that acknowledge the importance of private residences as safe havens for individuals not distributing, dispensing, or possessing with intent to distribute or dispense. This reinforces the message that drug-related activities have no place in areas meant to support children, housing stability, or recovery.

The legislation aims to empower communities by providing municipalities with the authority to post official traffic control devices and signage designating drug-free zones around schools, daycare centers, homeless shelters, and treatment facilities.

By implementing stricter regulations, enhancing protective measures, and designating drug-free zones, HB 398 aims to create safer communities where children and vulnerable individuals can thrive free from the harmful effects of drug abuse.