

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON  
*SENATE DISTRICT G*

## **Sponsor Statement: Senate Bill 53 Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation**

Senate Bill 53 addresses critical gaps in Alaska's public safety framework by enhancing accountability, transparency, and professional standards for peace officers. This legislation introduces essential reforms, including mandatory de-escalation procedures, improved reporting of officer misconduct, and enhanced training requirements.

Alaska's law enforcement officers play a crucial role in ensuring public safety but trust between the community and law enforcement must be maintained through clear expectations and accountability. SB 53 establishes consistent de-escalation protocols, ensuring that officers prioritize nonlethal means when safely possible before using deadly force. This not only protects the public but also supports officers in making well-informed, measured decisions in high-pressure situations.

Additionally, the bill strengthens misconduct reporting requirements, reinforcing a culture of integrity within law enforcement agencies. Officers will be required to intervene and report instances of misconduct, reducing instances of abuse and promoting a higher standard of professionalism. The Alaska Police Standards Council will be tasked with overseeing these reforms, ensuring compliance through certification and training requirements.

Furthermore, this bill acknowledges the importance of cultural competency in policing. By requiring law enforcement officers to complete cultural training every five years, SB 53 helps foster better relationships between officers and the diverse communities they serve, including Alaska Native populations who have historically faced disproportionate challenges in the justice system.

This legislation represents a proactive step toward modernizing policing in Alaska. It balances public safety with necessary accountability measures, ultimately fostering greater trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, and to create a safer, more just Alaska for all.

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