

From: Mike Coons
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Sen. David Wilson](#); [Sen. Mike Shower](#); [Sen. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard](#); [Rep. David Eastman](#); [Rep. DeLena Johnson](#); [Rep. George Rauscher](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: Support SB 127 and companion HB 311
Date: Sunday, April 15, 2018 9:37:25 AM

As the President of the Alaska Chapter of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC), I am writing to support SB 127 and the companion house bill HB 311. Following are my views and then “Comments or changes” pertaining to HB 311. Sadly as I write this, I do not have time to fully compare and contrast with SB 127, but from what I have read, the comments and changes follow with SB 127.

The issue is that the State of Alaska Legislature put forward a bill, SB 91 to emulate other States that have been upgrading and refining their criminal sentencing guidelines. The bottom line intent, as I see it, was to first and foremost save money at the prison level, then to streamline sentencing and to supposedly to direct Judges as to sentencing and bail. Sadly, the good “intent” has not worked. We are seeing a spike in criminal activity, an increase in releasing on bail or no bail with new crimes being done by those on bail. Even the legislation to correct that is weak and ineffective in my opinion. Some more news worthy examples is the woman felon arrested for concealed carry in conjunction with a gang shooting in the Mountain View mall area. Then there is the two who were arrested three times for felony criminal activity, both on bail after each arrest, then are now charged with breaking and entering a gun store and stealing 36 firearms, one of those firearms may have been used in a murder. Just those two examples are clear examples that SB 91's bail “fix” is a sad joke!

So, let me go to the meat of the issue, cost. We spend a lot of money on prisons and locking criminals up for far too short of times (then released, re-commit and here we go again). I can't count the times I have heard, “So and so arrested and charged with robbery and weapons charges.”. Sometimes the news even states that that person is a convicted felon, but not very often. So it is hard to know how many of those arrested are prior convicted felons. My guess is they are a large part, convicted felons. Yet, very rarely, if ever, do we hear that that person has been turned over to the US Attorney General's Office for federal prosecution. So, what happens then is the person is tried, if found guilty sentenced and from what we are seeing and hearing, a few years if any on the “weapons charges”, much less the underlying crime. Then add in SB 91 and it's supposed “fix” SB 54 and those sentences are even less! Again, not to try to rehabilitate the criminal but to reduce the cost of their incarceration! To really create an atmosphere of zero tolerance toward violent crime, specifically crime when a firearm is used, immediate transfer to the US Federal Attorney General for Federal prosecution would not only deter further crime but would reduce the total cost of all aspect of that crime, through incarceration in Federal Prisons! In the two example that I stated above, just the concealed carry of a firearm by a felon is 10 years, and since it was in conjunction with a crime involving discharge of firearms, she would be looking at the minimum 15 years, just on one count. In this case, she would not have been out of bail, would not have skipped bail and now we have to spend time and money to find her and maybe convict and send to a few short months in State Prison! Then

the two thief's of firearms that I stated above. Per the media, they were felons already. Just the theft of those firearms, 36 in total, they are looking at life in Federal Prison. Not counting if one of those firearms was used in a murder, that puts them in Federal Prison for life, no parole, not time off for good behavior! Just these two examples the cost saving to the State of Alaska is staggering!

As to first offenders on drug possession charges. I have no problem opening Palmer's prison again for those people, with extensive training, rehabilitation, etc. along with assistance to ensure once they are released they can have the best outcome as to jobs and changing their past history and becoming solid citizens. However, slip back to bad behavior, so sorry in prison for longer terms.

As to drugs, as you will see in my following comments, drug dealers are the scum of this earth! They peddle death and are the cause of many users dying, not counting any deaths or injuries to victims of the users crimes to get the dope! I fully agree with President Trump that we need to come down on these dealers of death with life in prison, no parole, period! In the event that we can turn them over to the Federal government, we should! In closing prior to my following "comments or changes" on HB 311/SB 127. We the People of Alaska who are intended victims of crime have to worry more about being prosecuted if and when we have to defend ourselves from a crime of violence than the criminals have to worry about real consequences! I and many others are now in a position where we have to take out insurance, through the NRA or USCCA to protect us when and if we have to use deadly force to protect us from death or serious bodily harm! Let us take this issue of crime by the horns and really do something that will truly protect all Alaskans! We must stop with "Criminal Justice" and return to "Justice System"!

Comments or changes HB 311:

1. Page 4 line 10. Theft of a firearm is a Federal Felony. Why is it in statute as a theft in second degree? Once caught, and a determination of theft of a firearm must go direct to US Attorney General, Alaska office. Much less should be first degree.
2. Page 5 line 17. Again, if someone is concealing a firearm in the course of a theft, then should be send to US Attorney General, Alaska. Of course if this person is a convicted felon, for sure sent to US Attorney General, Alaska.
3. Page 8 line 17. What is the cost of getting a vehicle out of impound once the vehicle is recovered from the thief? Does a impound cost imposed on the owner or the thief?
4. Page 8 lines 18-19. Why seven days? Loss of my vehicle for even a day is a huge deal! I's like this whole sub para (C) deleted.
5. Page 15 line 6. I don't know if you saw the President last night. He points out, rightfully that a person convicted of murder can get a live term or in other States with Death Penalty, gets death. Yet, drug dealers get on second degree? I agree the President Trump dealers of death need to be taken out of our society forever! This section is mostly related to meth, but meth kills as well. We need to make conviction of dealers mandatory 99 no parole. If they had a firearm as well, then we convict on

the drug and then turn over to US Attorney General, Alaska. Federal law is felon with a firearm in commission of a crime is easily 10 or more in Federal Prison. So they serve Federal time and then back to us after that, if they lived through the Federal time. Savings in \$100's of thousand of dollars for Alaska.

6. Page 26. Add to line 5. If person is charged with a firearms felony, that person will be immediately remanded to the US Attorney General, Alaska. I do have a concern that cops like APD will not do charging papers on the weapons charges. They have a history of not doing so because they feel that it isn't their job. Huge history of this happening when a felon is caught trying to purchase of firearm though a firearms dealer and has committed Federal Fraud in attesting they are not a felon or any of the other 10 causes for not being able to posses or own a firearm.

7. Page 28 lines 23-24. Change to where if crime is a felony that any firearms owned by the accused are turned over to law enforcement until if the person is found not guilty, when they will be immediately returned. Where I have a problem here is Domestic Violence. If the Domestic Violence is a felony, for sure removal of the firearms. If however a misdemeanor, that then is an really touchy area, since loss of 2nd Amendment rights are felony, not misdemeanor. I could see court ordering the accused to have a third party take custody of the firearms until trial is over.

8. Page 38 lines 9-10. Not no but HELL NO! Turn over immediately to US Attorney General, Alaska. Federal law is from 5 all the way up to life just in this definition!

9. Page 38 lines 18-28. Life

10. Page 39 lines 20-25. As a past Firefighter and Paramedic. The manufacture of meth, is a huge danger to us in going in to the building and in treating any person. Major decontamination is needed to protect EMS prior to transport to any hospital. Two to four is way light. Should be more in the 10-15 years.

Mike Coons
President, Alaska Chapter, AMAC

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