



SENATOR DENNIS EGAN

**SB 187 – Arson in the Third Degree**

**Sponsor Statement**

SB 187 closes a loophole in Alaska's arson laws. People who use fire as a weapon are particularly dangerous, but today, burning somebody else's car on private property can't be charged as arson. SB 187 will let prosecutors charge people who burn essential property that doesn't belong to them, as arsonists.

Today, starting a fire that stands to hurt someone is Arson in the First Degree. Burning a building you don't own is Arson in the Second Degree. But Arson in the Third Degree consists only of burning a car on state or city land. Someone who attacks their ex by burning her car in the driveway is guilty only of Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree.

SB 187 fixes that by extending the crime of arson to burning another person's car, no matter where it's parked.