

Department of Public Safety

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Representative Foster

Co-Chair, House Finance Committee

DATE: March 24, 2025

FROM: James Cockrell, Commissioner RE: Hearing Request for HB 62

Please accept this request to schedule House Bill (HB) 62 – SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KIT/TRACKING for consideration by the House Judiciary Committee. HB 62 will add a new section under Alaska Statute (AS) 44.41 to incorporate language authorizing the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to implement a statewide sexual assault examination kit tracking program. The program will require participation by all law enforcement agencies and healthcare providers charged with the collection of a sexual assault kit. The DPS has already implemented a sexual assault kit tracking system. This bill would further mandate the use of the system throughout the process from manufacturer, medical provider, law enforcement, to the laboratory to increase transparency and accountability of stakeholders. The system uses web-based software to track the submission and processing status of the sexual assault kit and provides victim survivors with a portal to track their kit through testing completion.

This change is a recommendation from the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative working group.

With this hearing request for HB 62, the following documents are included:

- HB 62 (Version 34-GH1317\A)
- Governor Dunleavy's Transmittal Letter
- HB 62 Sectional Analysis (Version 34-GH1317\A)
- HB 62 Fiscal Note (Identifier: 0317-DPS-SSA-01-21-25)

The primary testifier for this legislation will be David Kanaris, Forensic Science Laboratory Chief, Alaska State Crime Lab, Division of Statewide Services. Chief Kanaris can be reached at (907) 269-5621 or david.kanaris@alaska.gov. Additional invited testifiers may be added at a later date and will be communicated to the chair in advance in writing.

If you have any questions regarding this hearing request, please feel free to contact the DPS Legislative Liaison, Laurel Shoop, at (907)465-8703 or laurel.shoop@alaksa.gov.

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Jordan Shilling, Legislative Director, Office of Governor Mike Dunleavy