

Alaska State Legislature



Senator Hollis French

SB 19 - Complaints Against Peace Officers/VPSOs

Senate Bill 19 establishes a framework that allows the Department of Public Safety to provide investigation status updates to complainants about grievances they file against peace officers. The legislation protects personnel information and the confidentiality of investigative processes while also allowing the department to provide evidence that a complaint is being taken seriously and getting reviewed for potential disciplinary action.

When a citizen files a complaint against a peace officer, the law must balance the confidentiality of the process with the legitimate need to inform the complainant about the status of the department's investigation. In instances where wrong doing has actually occurred, silence by the department may result in greater mistrust of the system, particularly if it lasts for months.

This legislation provides citizens with more information about how their government responds to their concerns, without reducing protections on confidential personnel files or hindering the objective of completing unbiased investigation processes. I ask for your support on this important piece of legislation.