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Representative Jay Ramras
District 10

Sponsor Statement HB 98(FIN)am (1.20.10)

“An Act relating to minor consuming and repeat minor consuming; and providing for an effective date.”

HB 98 fixes a problem that occurred with the enactment of HB 359, a bill that passed the House unanimously in the 25th Legislative Session. HB 359 originated due to the desire of Alaskan youths to join the military and not being able to do so due to probation restrictions from a minor consuming charge that may have occurred up to 5 years previously. Unfortunately, when the bill was drafted, it left a loop-hole in the repeat minor consuming law.

HB 98 fixes this loop-hole by referencing both suspended impositions of sentence under AS 04.16.050(b)(1) and a judgment of conviction under AS 04.16.050(b)(2).

This new language will now cover all repeat offenders, no matter how their previous minor consuming charges were adjudicated.

An amendment was added in the House Finance HB98 to also fix an issue as it relates to bootlegging. The new language will bring bootlegging penalties in line with felony DUI penalties.