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REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CHENAULT SPEAKER OF THE ALASKA STATE HOUSE

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HOUSE BILL 218: *"An act relating to the aggravating factor at felony sentencing of multiple prior misdemeanors when a prior misdemeanor involves an assault on a correctional officer."*

The aggravating factor in AS 12.55.155(c)(31) allows a judge who is sentencing a person for a felony offense to impose a sentence above the presumptive range if the defendant has five previous convictions for class A misdemeanors.

Generally, convictions for two crimes that are part of a single criminal episode are counted as one prior conviction. However, there are exceptions. Current law provides that prior convictions for resisting arrest, a misdemeanor while attempting escape, and assault on a peace officer would each count as a prior conviction even though they were part of the same criminal episode.

HB 218 extends this extra protection of counting prior convictions to similar crimes committed on uniformed or clearly identified correctional employees.