

Memo

To: Representative Tuck and others
From: Robert Boyle, Superintendent
CC: file
Date: March 5, 2014
Re: HB 317

House Bill 317 Increasing Safety At All Schools

The safety of students is paramount in providing a quality school environment. It is essential that passage to and from school is conducted in a safe manner. Well-marked and established school zones are a long-standing tradition in providing safe schools.

Traffic offenses for failure to obey traffic control devices in a school zone are a 6-point violation.

The State of Alaska has determined the establishment of Public Charter Schools. Charter Schools are of the same standing as other public schools in Alaska. The State of Alaska has established the importance of well-marked school zone through traffic violations of significant point values. Traffic violations should be extended to all public schools in Alaska.

The students attending private schools are also deserving of a safe passage to and from school.

It is difficult for some agencies to respond in an appropriate manner without supportive legislation. To provide the understanding of the legal status of public charter schools and the need for private school children to have equal protection to and from school we support and encourage passage of HB 317.

HB 317 provides the Department of Transportation and various municipalities with the ability to recognize and provide safe passage on the streets surrounding public charter schools and private schools.