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SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 231 – Extending the termination date of the Board of Parole; and providing for an effective date.

HB 231 extends the Board of Parole termination date of June 30, 2016 until June 30, 2022.

In April 2010, the Alaska State Legislature Division of Legislative Audit completed an audit on the Board of Parole 2015 and found that several operational improvements were needed, but conclude that there is a demonstrated public need for the board's continuing operation.

The audit makes four recommendations to improve board operations. These recommendations address the following:

1. The accuracy and consistency of information contained in parole files;
2. Documentation of victim and offender notifications;
3. Deficiencies in proposed regulation changes; and
4. The security of the Department of Corrections' information system.

In response to the audit, the Board of Parole provided responses to the identified recommendations. Likewise, Department of Corrections generally agreed with the recommendations.

HB 231 fulfills the constitutional requirement that the State establish a parole system and accordingly assists in keeping Alaskans safe.