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A Communication From
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HB 43 Explanation of Changes

HB 43 Version A designates the Sunday preceding May 15 each year to honor law enforcement officers and peace officers. If May 15 falls on a Sunday, then Alaska Law Enforcement Officers' Day is on May 15. Version W simply changes the date to January 9 of every year.

May 15 is National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which it falls is National Police Week. Initially, we thought this would be a good time to add Alaska Law Enforcement Officers' Day, but it became clear that an additional day of honor might conflict with memorial observances that are already held in Alaska and Washington D.C.

Rep. Lynn intended his bill to honor those law enforcement officers who are still on the job, not only those who have given their lives in the line of duty. For that reason, we changed the date to January 9 to coincide with the National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. We believe this will provide a great opportunity to thank and honor those officers who continue to serve every day, without distracting from the equally important memorial observances that already occur in May.