

LEGAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

December 16, 2014

SUBJECT: Alaska Law Enforcement Officers' Day
(Work Order No. 29-LS0242\A)

TO: Representative Bob Lynn
Attn: Nancy Manly

FROM: Susie L. Shutts
Legislative Counsel

Enclosed is the bill draft you requested establishing a day to honor Alaska law enforcement officers. As I discussed with Ms. Manly, the bill uses the terms "peace officer" and "law enforcement officer," and the day itself is called Alaska Law Enforcement Officers' Day. Although both "law enforcement officer" and "peace officer" appear in the Alaska Statutes, the term "peace officer" is used much more frequently and generally applies to a larger group of people when defined.¹ Please review this draft to make sure it reflects your intent, and let me know if you would like any changes.

SLS:lnd
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Enclosure

¹ For example, "peace officer" is defined in AS 01.10.060(a)(7) to include state troopers, municipal police force members, village and regional public safety officers, and U.S. marshals and deputy marshals. This definition applies to all Alaska statutes, unless the context requires otherwise. Compare this broad definition of "peace officer" with the more limited definitions of "law enforcement officer," for example in AS 08.54.640(d)(1), which applies only to AS 08.54.640 ("a person who is employed by the Department of Public Safety as a state trooper or as a law enforcement officer engaged in fish and wildlife protection; or employed as a fish and wildlife law enforcement officer by the United States Department of the Interior or the United States Department of Agriculture"), or AS 08.76.590(14), which applies only to AS 08.76.100 - 08.76.590 ("a police officer of the municipality where a pawnshop is located; or a state trooper if a pawnshop is located in the unorganized borough or if a pawnshop is located in a municipality that does not provide police protection services").