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Senator Lesil McGuire

Sponsor Statement for Senate Bill 212

“An Act relating to civil in rem forfeiture actions; and providing for an effective date.”

Senate Bill 212 protects the private property rights of innocent citizens by requiring that Alaska’s revered and dedicated law enforcement agencies, charge individuals with a crime before permanently seizing private property.

Across the nation, civil asset forfeiture laws have gained notoriety in recent years for rampant abuse and deliberate circumvention of due process. Well-documented cases of policing for profit have sparked a wave of reform nationwide.

SB 212 is a step in the right direction in protecting private citizens’ property rights and affirming the integrity of law enforcement.