

29th Alaska State Legislature

Session:
State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-2995
Fax: (907) 465-6592



Interim:
716 W 4th Avenue, Room 515
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 269-0250
Fax: (907) 269-0249

Senator Lesil McGuire

CS for SB 37 SPONSOR STATEMENT

Work Order 29-LS0488\N

“An Act relating to physical examinations for students; relating to physical examinations for teachers; relating to sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention efforts in public schools; relating to dating violence and abuse awareness and prevention efforts in public schools; relating to national criminal history record check requirements for employees of child care facilities and residential child care facilities; and relating to mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect.”

Senate Bill 37, known as the Alaska Safe Children’s Act, is an important piece of legislation that will require school districts to set up a policy and training program for staff, students, and parents on the topics of sexual assault and teen dating violence. ASCA will combat child abuse and teen dating violence; and add volunteer athletic coaches to the existing mandatory reporting statute.

This bill will do the following:

- Require school districts to implement age-appropriate training and curricula on sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention for students kindergarten through 12th grade.
- Require school districts to implement age-appropriate training and curricula on dating violence and abuse policy, awareness, training, and prevention for students 7th through 12th grade.
- Adds volunteer athletic coaches to the existing mandatory reporting statute under AS 47.17.020(a)
- Repeals requirement that school districts pay for physical examinations.
- Repeals requirement that certificated preschool teachers must be fingerprinted and background checked a second time after being hired.

Alaska Safe Children’s Act will empower children, parents and teachers by providing a structure for pulling the stories of abuse out of the shadows and demonstrating to future generations that every child has a voice. In a state as resource rich as ours, it is time we turn our focus on our most precious resource: our children.