



Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police

PO Box 3734

Seward, Alaska 99664

February 3, 2020

Chair House Tribal Affairs Committee, Representative Tiffany Zulkosky
Chairman of the Senate State Affairs, Senator Joshua Revak

Honorable Senator Revak and Representative Zulkosky;

This letter is issued with the support of the AACOP Board of Directors and in continued support and advocacy for improving law enforcement related issues across the state.

The Governor and the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) has introduced legislation that would take some of the basic requirements to be a police officer currently in regulations only, and move them into State Statutes. We hope this may assist us in our efforts to assure only qualified individuals are appointed as police officers in rural communities. This legislation is a small part of an overall strategy to support and improve public safety in rural Alaska.

These bills do not raise any of APSC's regulatory standards that they currently enforce; it simply elevates some of them from regulation to statute and helps to clear up some of our less understood regulatory language. It also dictates that no one can serve as a peace officer in Alaska who has any felony, or misdemeanor sex or domestic violence conviction. This is currently in regulation for all officers, but the change would include other individuals in law enforcement who are not considered 'Police' under Alaska Statutes.

The Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police supports this bill for several reasons but the most important reason is that it helps improve the safety of Alaskans and that, above all, is what we are all about.

If you should have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at nppd@northpolepolice.org or at (907)488-6902.

We appreciate your service to the State of Alaska and concern for our citizens.

With Sincere regards,

Steve Dutra
Chief of Police, North Pole Police Department
President
Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police