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Governor Michael J. Dunleavy  
STATE OF ALASKA

January 24, 2020

The Honorable Cathy Giessel  
Senate President  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 111  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Giessel:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill amending the authority of pretrial services officers to make arrests, file charges, and request warrants from the court for defendants who commit Escape in the Third Degree.

Under current law, pretrial services officers may only arrest, file criminal charges, or request a warrant when a person violates a condition of pretrial release (AS 11.56.757) or fails to appear for a court hearing (AS 11.56.730). However, defendants often violate their conditions of release by removing their electronic monitoring bracelet, which upgrades the offense to Escape in the Third Degree, a Class C felony. Since pretrial services officers are unable to arrest, file charges, or request warrants for this offense, they must notify law enforcement or a prosecutor who must then gather the information from the pretrial services officer in order to file charges or request a warrant.

Adding Escape in the Third Degree to the list of offenses that a pretrial services officer can arrest, file charges, or request a warrant for will streamline the process and allow warrants to be issued and charges to be filed in a more timely manner.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy  
Governor

Enclosure