



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Matt Claman

Session: State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801 Phone: 465-4919

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Senate Bill 28

Sponsor Statement — Version A

“An Act relating to workplace violence protective orders; relating to the crime of violating a protective order; relating to the powers of district judges and magistrates; amending Rules 4 and 65, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rule 9, Alaska Rules of Administration; and providing for an effective date.”

When individuals make credible threats of violence against an employer’s worksite or an employee, the attorney representing the employer may need to file a civil lawsuit and ask for a temporary restraining order to protect the business. It can take several days to complete and obtain the order. In contrast, people seeking a domestic violence restraining order can usually get the court order within one day.

Senate Bill 28, modeled after Alaska’s domestic violence protective order process, allows an employer to file a petition for a protective order against an individual who the employer reasonably believes committed an act of violence against the employer or an employee, or made a threat of violence against the employer or an employee that can reasonably be construed as a threat that may be carried out at the employer’s workplace.

The intent of Senate Bill 28 is to help prevent incidents such as the fatal shooting of a hospital employee by an ex-employee at the Soldotna Central Peninsula General Hospital in November 2008. Eight states have laws providing for the issuance of workplace restraining orders (WROs) and three states have the option for employers to file for the same type of orders that are available to victims. Several others are currently considering related legislation.

Senate Bill 28 gives employers a more effective way to protect their workplace and their employees from threats of violence.