



Domestic Violence/Sex Offenses Highlights

- **Decreases trauma of the justice system to victims and witnesses at Grand Jury and streamlines the process:** allow key witnesses, typically the officer in the case, to summarize the testimony of other witnesses.
 - Makes System Less Traumatizing to Victims: Reduces the trauma to the victim who would otherwise have to physically appear at the grand jury, sometimes mere days after being victimized, and re-tell their experience.
 - Makes The Process More Efficient: will also assist with the backlog created when grand juries were suspended due to COVID-19.
 - *More than 30 other jurisdictions allow similar process.*
 - *The rules of evidence still apply at trial, therefore, witnesses would need to be available for trial.*
- **Updates Alaska's sex offender registration**
 - Prevents out-of-state convicted sex offenders from avoiding registration requirements: will require sex offenders to register in Alaska if they are required to register in the convicting state.
 - *Out of state offenders seek out Alaska to avoid registration requirements.*
 - *Alaska will no longer be seen as a haven for sex offenders to avoid registration.*
 - Additional information to the Department of Public Safety: aligns Alaska's sex offender registration more closely with the federal registration by requiring sex offenders to provide the Department of Public Safety with additional information (travel plans, professional licensing information, temporary lodging information, and passport information). Such information is important to better monitor these offenders.
- **Updates Stalking in the first degree.**
 - Makes stalking, while the victim has a stalking protective order, the crime of stalking in the first degree.
 - *Currently a violation of a stalking protective order would only be covered under stalking in the second degree (a misdemeanor).*
 - Stalking in the first degree already includes violations of other protective orders like domestic violence protective orders.

- **Protects children.**
 - Allows qualified individuals to interview children under 13 who engage in sexual acts together.
 - *Allows children access to age-appropriate services.*
 - *Will assist in the understanding of why children under 13 have engaged in sexual behavior.*
 - *Protects potential victims and curbs potential future sexual misconduct.*
- **Consecutive sentencing for repeat violating conditions of release convictions.**
 - This bill requires some additional jail time be imposed for each conviction for the crime of violation of conditions of release.
 - *Defendants often repeatedly violate their conditions of release, resulting in multiple charges of “violation of conditions of release.” This provision requires some additional time be imposed for each offense.*
 - **Expands the definition of domestic violence and a crime of domestic violence.**
 - Expands the list of crimes to include:
 - *Interfering with a report of a crime involving domestic violence; and*
 - *Unlawful contact.*