

33RD ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session

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Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4940

Interim

1500 W. Benson Blvd
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 269-0120



Judiciary Committee

Military & Veterans Affairs
Committee

Ways & Means Committee

Rep.Andrew.Gray@akleg.gov

REPRESENTATIVE ANDREW GRAY

House Bill 53

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 53 provides easier access to identification cards for reentrants upon release, granting them an important tool for reintegration. HB 53 will require the Department of Administration to issue a state ID to all reentrants who are serving a term of imprisonment over 120 days who would otherwise be released without a valid ID.

Individuals are required to present a valid form of ID in order to gain new employment, apply for housing, drive a car, open a bank account, travel, purchase a phone, apply for Medicaid, social security, obtaining medication, and registering to vote. The lack of a valid ID could cause a reentrant to reoffend or violate their conditions of release.

Reentry is an essential part of public safety. Ensuring reentrants are supported during their transitional period helps improve community well-being and public safety. By providing reentrants with a valid form of identification upon their release we also provide the individual with an essential tool for finding housing, employment, and medical care, and alleviate the risk of reoffending.

In prior legislatures it was determined that HB 53 would add no additional costs to the state. HB 53 may reduce costs to the state by reducing recidivism numbers.

Please join me in supporting House Bill 53