

SENATE BILL NO. 121

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR KIEHL

Introduced: 5/8/19

Referred: State Affairs, Community and Regional Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to Alaska Native organizations; relating to the village public safety**
2 **officer program; and relating to the Alaska temporary assistance program."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 18.65.670(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) There is created in the Department of Public Safety a village public safety
6 officer program to assist local governments and villages through nonprofit regional
7 corporations, Alaska Native organizations, or municipalities to appoint, train,
8 supervise, and retain persons to serve as village public safety officers to administer
9 functions relative to

10 (1) the protection of life and property in rural areas of the state; and

11 (2) providing probation and parole supervision to persons under
12 supervision by communicating with and monitoring the activities and progress of these
13 persons at the direction of probation and parole officers.

14 *** Sec. 2.** AS 18.65.670(b) is amended to read:

1 (b) With funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner of public
 2 safety shall provide grants to nonprofit regional corporations **and Alaska Native**
 3 **organizations** for village public safety officers. If a nonprofit regional corporation for
 4 a rural area **or Alaska Native organization** declines a grant under this subsection, the
 5 commissioner may provide the grant to a municipality with a population of less than
 6 10,000 willing to administer the grant for the rural area. Before awarding a grant to a
 7 municipality, the commissioner shall consult with the nonprofit regional corporation
 8 **or Alaska Native organization** that declined the grant. The commissioner of public
 9 safety shall coordinate with the commissioner of corrections when providing grants
 10 under this section, and the commissioners shall jointly execute an agreement with the
 11 nonprofit regional corporations, **Alaska Native organizations**, or municipalities, as
 12 appropriate.

13 * **Sec. 3.** AS 18.65.670(c) is amended to read:

14 (c) The commissioner of public safety may adopt regulations related to village
 15 public safety officers, including minimum standards and training, criteria for
 16 **participation by a** community, **a** municipality, **an Alaska Native organization**, or **a**
 17 corporation [PARTICIPATION], and the interaction between the Department of
 18 Public Safety and village public safety officers. Regulations adopted by the
 19 commissioner of public safety under this subsection may not prohibit village public
 20 safety officers who otherwise meet minimum standards and training from carrying
 21 firearms. If the commissioner of public safety adopts regulations regarding training for
 22 village public safety officers, at a minimum, that training must include disability
 23 training that provides training in the subjects set out in AS 18.65.220(3). The
 24 commissioner of corrections may adopt regulations related to the functions of village
 25 public safety officers providing probation and parole supervision.

26 * **Sec. 4.** AS 18.65.670(e) is amended to read:

27 (e) In this section,

28 **(1) "Alaska Native organization" means an organization listed in**
 29 **AS 47.27.070(a);**

30 **(2) "rural area" means a community with a population of less than**
 31 **1,000 within**

- 1 **(A)** [(1)] the unorganized borough; or
- 2 **(B)** [(2)] a borough, if the community is not connected by road
- 3 to Anchorage or Fairbanks.
- 4 * **Sec. 5.** AS 47.27.070(c) is repealed.