

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**

May 11, 2023

3:06 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Representative Laddie Shaw, Chair  
Representative Stanley Wright, Vice Chair  
Representative Ben Carpenter  
Representative Craig Johnson  
Representative Jennie Armstrong  
Representative Andi Story

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Representative Jamie Allard

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

HOUSE BILL NO. 118

"An Act relating to the sale and possession of used detached catalytic converters; and establishing the crime of possession, sale, or purchase of a used detached catalytic converter."

- HEARD & HELD

SENATE BILL NO. 119

"An Act relating to state identifications and driver's licenses for persons in the custody of the Department of Corrections; relating to state identifications issued by the Department of Corrections; relating to the duties of the commissioner of corrections; relating to misconduct involving confidential information; relating to voter identification; relating to identification for fishing permits; relating to identification for debtor financing statements; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED SB 119 OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 42

"An Act relating to the elimination or modification of state agency publications that are outdated, duplicative, or excessive."

- MOVED HB 42 OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 157

"An Act establishing Juneteenth Day as a legal holiday."

- MOVED HB 157 OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 118

SHORT TITLE: CATALYTIC CONVERTERS: SALE/POSSESSION

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) D.JOHNSON

03/17/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/17/23 (H) STA, JUD  
05/04/23 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120  
05/04/23 (H) Heard & Held  
05/04/23 (H) MINUTE(STA)  
05/11/23 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

BILL: SB 119

SHORT TITLE: STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR PRISONERS

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) MYERS

03/31/23 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/31/23 (S) STA  
04/13/23 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)  
04/13/23 (S) Heard & Held  
04/13/23 (S) MINUTE(STA)  
05/02/23 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)  
05/02/23 (S) Moved SB 119 Out of Committee  
05/02/23 (S) MINUTE(STA)  
05/03/23 (S) STA RPT 2DP 2NR 1AM  
05/03/23 (S) AM: KAWASAKI  
05/03/23 (S) DP: CLAMAN, BJORKMAN  
05/03/23 (S) NR: WIELECHOWSKI, MERRICK  
05/10/23 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)  
05/10/23 (S) VERSION: SB 119  
05/11/23 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

BILL: HB 42

SHORT TITLE: ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY AGENCY PUBLICATIONS

SPONSOR(s): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

01/23/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
01/23/23 (H) STA, FIN  
04/13/23 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120  
04/13/23 (H) <Bill Hearing Canceled>  
04/27/23 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

04/27/23 (H) Heard & Held  
04/27/23 (H) MINUTE (STA)  
05/11/23 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

BILL: HB 157

SHORT TITLE: PROCLAIM JUNETEENTH DAY A HOLIDAY

SPONSOR (s): WRIGHT

04/12/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
04/12/23 (H) STA, L&C  
05/09/23 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120  
05/09/23 (H) Heard & Held  
05/09/23 (H) MINUTE (STA)  
05/11/23 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

**WITNESS REGISTER**

DAWSON MANN, Staff  
Senator Robert Myers  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented SB 119 on behalf of Senator Myers, prime sponsor.

DON HABEGER, Coalition Coordinator  
Juneau Reentry Coalition  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 119.

MICHAEL GARBY, Advocacy Director  
American Civil liberties Union of Alaska  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 119.

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

[3:06:28 PM](#)

**CHAIR LADDIE SHAW** called the House State Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. Representatives C. Johnson, Armstrong, Story, Wright, and Shaw were present at the call to order. Representative Carpenter arrived as the meeting was in progress.

**HB 118-CATALYTIC CONVERTERS: SALE/POSSESSION**

[3:07:22 PM](#)

CHAIR SHAW announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 118, "An Act relating to the sale and possession of used detached catalytic converters; and establishing the crime of possession, sale, or purchase of a used detached catalytic converter."

CHAIR SHAW announced that HB 118 would be held over.

**SB 119-STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR PRISONERS**

[3:08:10 PM](#)

CHAIR SHAW announced that the next order of business would be SENATE BILL NO. 119, "An Act relating to state identifications and driver's licenses for persons in the custody of the Department of Corrections; relating to state identifications issued by the Department of Corrections; relating to the duties of the commissioner of corrections; relating to misconduct involving confidential information; relating to voter identification; relating to identification for fishing permits; relating to identification for debtor financing statements; and providing for an effective date."

[3:09:26 PM](#)

DAWSON MANN, Staff, Senator Robert Myers, Alaska State Legislature, presented SB 119 on behalf of Senator Myers, prime sponsor. He paraphrased the sponsor statement [included in the committee packet], which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Senate Bill 119 provides easier access to identification cards for reentrants upon release, granting them an important tool for reintegration. SB 119 grants the Department of Corrections the statutory authority to issue state IDs to anyone leaving their custody that does not have an ID in their possession.

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 or Social Security, obtain medication, and register to vote. The inability to find housing or employment or obtain medications are significant factors in whether or not a person is likely to reoffend, endangering public safety and

costing the state more money once they are back in prison.

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.

[3:11:17 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GRAY, prime sponsor of the companion bill to SB 119, offered a brief explanation of the legislation. He explained that SB 119 would make the identification (ID) card issued by the Department of Corrections (DOC) a valid state ID.

[3:12:38 PM](#)

CHAIR SHAW opened public testimony on SB 119.

[3:12:52 PM](#)

DON HABEGER, Coalition Coordinator, Juneau Reentry Coalition, testified in support of SB 119. He shared that the Juneau Reentry Coalition's mission is to ensure that barriers and gaps to successful reentry, such as state ID, are dealt with. He shared a personal anecdote to illustrate the difficulty of reentry into society without proper identification. He believed that the bill was needed and encouraged its passage from committee.

[3:15:53 PM](#)

MICHAEL GARBY, Advocacy Director, American Civil liberties Union of Alaska, testified in support of SB 119. He expressed the opinion that those returning from prison should be equipped with a valid ID, as this would be a critical piece of reentry. Too often, he said, people have been released from prison without a sufficient ID, and this bars them from securing safe housing, applying for jobs, establishing a consistent mailing address or bank account, having a steady phone number, accessing healthcare outside an emergency setting, or booking air travel back to their families or communities. He described all of these things as routine tasks that are taken for granted. He said this would

be in the best interest of incarcerated people and of the safety of communities, as it would guarantee [those released from prison] would not be ostracized. He expressed encouragement that SB 119 recognized this reality.

CHAIR SHAW, after ascertaining that there was no one else who wished to testify, closed public testimony on SB 119.

[3:18:29 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT moved to report SB 119 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, SB 119 was reported out of the House State Affairs Standing Committee.

[3:18:56 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE STORY, in closing, shared her belief that the bill was a respectful way to help transition people into the community.

[3:19:20 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:19 p.m. to 3:22 p.m.

**HB 42-ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY AGENCY PUBLICATIONS**

[3:22:11 PM](#)

CHAIR SHAW announced that the next order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 42, "An Act relating to the elimination or modification of state agency publications that are outdated, duplicative, or excessive."

[3:22:55 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT moved to report HB 42 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 42 was reported out of the House State Affairs Standing Committee.

[3:23:15 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:23 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.

**HB 157-PROCLAIM JUNETEENTH DAY A HOLIDAY**

[3:25:36 PM](#)

CHAIR SHAW announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 157, "An Act establishing Juneteenth Day as a legal holiday."

[3:26:15 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT moved to report HB 157 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 157 was reported out of the House State Affairs Standing Committee.

[3:26:40 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:26 p.m. to 3:28 p.m.

[3:28:56 PM](#)

CHAIR SHAW offered closing remarks.

[3:29:12 PM](#)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House State Affairs Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at [3:29] p.m.