

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**

May 2, 2024

3:34 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Scott Kawasaki, Chair  
Senator Matt Claman, Vice Chair  
Senator Jesse Bjorkman  
Senator Bill Wielechowski  
Senator Kelly Merrick

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 129 (JUD)

"An Act relating to voter registration; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED SCS CSHB 129 (STA) OUT OF COMMITTEE -

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 286 (STA)

"An Act relating to victim restitution and compensation."

- MOVED CSHB 286 (STA) OUT OF COMMITTEE -

HOUSE BILL NO. 81

"An Act relating to the transfer of a title on the death of the owner; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED SCS HB 81 (STA) OUT OF COMMITTEE -

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 146 (STA)

"An Act relating to fireworks; repealing restrictions on the sale of fireworks; directing the Department of Public Safety to adopt fireworks regulations; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED SCS CSHB 146 (STA) OUT OF COMMITTEE -

SENATE BILL NO. 229

"An Act relating to gun violence protective orders; relating to the crime of violating a protective order; relating to a central registry for protective orders; 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."

- HEARD AND HELD -

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 129

SHORT TITLE: ELECTIONS: VOTER REG./LEGAL FUND/COMMS

SPONSOR(S): HOUSE JUDICIARY

|          |     |   |
|----------|-----|---|
| 03/22/23 | (H) | READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS                   |
| 03/22/23 | (H) | STA, JUD  |
| 03/28/23 | (H) | STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120 (TSBldg)             |
| 03/28/23 | (H) | Scheduled but Not Heard                           |
| 03/30/23 | (H) | STATE AFFAIRS at 03:00 PM GRUENBERG 120           |
| 03/30/23 | (H) | Heard & Held                                      |
| 04/27/23 | (H) | STATE AFFAIRS at 03:00 PM GRUENBERG 120           |
| 04/27/23 | (H) | Moved CSHB 129(STA) Out of Committee              |
| 04/28/23 | (H) | STA RPT CS(STA) 5DP 2AM                           |
| 04/28/23 | (H) | DP: CARPENTER, C.JOHNSON, ALLARD,<br>WRIGHT, SHAW |
| 04/28/23 | (H) | AM: ARMSTRONG, STORY                              |
| 04/28/23 | (H) | FN1: ZERO(GOV)                                    |
| 05/01/23 | (H) | JUDICIARY at 01:00 PM GRUENBERG 120               |
| 05/01/23 | (H) | Heard & Held -- Delayed to 1:15 PM --             |
| 05/03/23 | (H) | JUDICIARY at 01:00 PM GRUENBERG 120               |
| 05/03/23 | (H) | Heard & Held -- Delayed to 1:30 PM --             |
| 05/05/23 | (H) | JUDICIARY at 01:00 PM GRUENBERG 120               |
| 05/05/23 | (H) | Heard & Held                                      |
| 05/08/23 | (H) | JUDICIARY at 01:00 PM GRUENBERG 120               |
| 05/08/23 | (H) | Heard & Held -- Delayed to 3:25 PM --             |
| 01/17/24 | (H) | JUDICIARY at 01:00 PM GRUENBERG 120               |
| 01/17/24 | (H) | Moved CSHB 129(JUD) Out of Committee              |
| 01/18/24 | (H) | JUD RPT CS(JUD) 4DP 2NR 1AM                       |
| 01/18/24 | (H) | DP: C.JOHNSON, CARPENTER, ALLARD, VANCE           |
| 01/18/24 | (H) | NR: GRAY, GROH                                    |
| 01/18/24 | (H) | AM: EASTMAN                                       |
| 01/18/24 | (H) | FN2: ZERO(GOV)                                    |
| 01/31/24 | (H) | RULES TO CALENDAR 1/31/2024                       |
| 01/31/24 | (H) | READ THE SECOND TIME                              |
| 01/31/24 | (H) | JUD CS ADOPTED UC                                 |
| 01/31/24 | (H) | AM NO 1 FAILED Y1 N39                             |

01/31/24 (H) AM NO 2 FAILED Y2 N38  
 01/31/24 (H) AM NO 3 FAILED Y1 N39  
 01/31/24 (H) AM NO 4 FAILED Y1 N39  
 01/31/24 (H) AM NO 5 FAILED Y1 N39  
 01/31/24 (H) AM NO 6 NOT OFFERED  
 01/31/24 (H) ADVANCED TO THIRD READING 2/2 CALENDAR  
 02/02/24 (H) READ THE THIRD TIME CSHB 129(JUD)  
 02/02/24 (H) PASSED Y33 N6 E1  
 02/02/24 (H) EFFECTIVE DATE(S) SAME AS PASSAGE  
 02/02/24 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
 02/02/24 (H) VERSION: CSHB 129(JUD)  
 02/05/24 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
 02/05/24 (S) STA, FIN  
 03/05/24 (S) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:30 PM BELTZ 105  
 (TSBldg)  
 03/05/24 (S) Heard & Held  
 05/02/24 (S) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:30 PM BELTZ 105  
 (TSBldg)

BILL: HB 286

SHORT TITLE: CRIME VICTIM RESTITUTION

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE COULOMBE

01/24/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
 01/24/24 (H) STA  
 02/08/24 (H) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:00 PM GRUENBERG 120  
 02/08/24 (H) Heard & Held  
 02/09/24 (H) COSPONSOR(S): WRIGHT  
 02/12/24 (H) COSPONSOR(S): HIMSCHOOT  
 02/14/24 (H) COSPONSOR(S): CARRICK  
 02/19/24 (H) COSPONSOR(S): CARPENTER, STORY  
 02/20/24 (H) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:00 PM GRUENBERG 120  
 02/20/24 (H) -- Invited & Public Testimony -- --  
 MEETING CANCELED --  
 02/27/24 (H) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:00 PM GRUENBERG 120  
 02/27/24 (H) Moved CSHB 286(STA) Out of Committee  
 02/28/24 (H) STA RPT CS(STA) 7DP  
 02/28/24 (H) DP: WRIGHT, CARPENTER, C.JOHNSON,  
 ALLARD, CARRICK, STORY, SHAW  
 02/28/24 (H) FN1: ZERO(AJS)  
 02/28/24 (H) COSPONSOR(S): C.JOHNSON  
 03/13/24 (H) RULES TO CALENDAR 3/13/2024  
 03/13/24 (H) READ THE SECOND TIME  
 03/13/24 (H) STA CS ADOPTED UC  
 03/13/24 (H) AM NO 1 FAILED Y1 N39  
 03/13/24 (H) AM NO 2 OFFERED AND WITHDRAWN  
 03/13/24 (H) ADVANCED TO THIRD READING 3/14 CALENDAR

03/13/24 (H) COSPONSOR(S): RAUSCHER, SADDLER,  
RUFFRIDGE, JOSEPHSON, VANCE

03/14/24 (H) READ THE THIRD TIME CSHB 286 (STA)

03/14/24 (H) PASSED Y39 E1

03/14/24 (H) COSPONSOR(S): ARMSTRONG, CRONK,  
SCHRAGE, TILTON

03/14/24 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)

03/14/24 (H) VERSION: CSHB 286 (STA)

03/15/24 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS

03/15/24 (S) STA

03/18/24 (S) CROSS SPONSOR(S): HUGHES

04/18/24 (S) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:30 PM BELTZ 105  
(TSBldg)

04/18/24 (S) Heard & Held

04/18/24 (S) MINUTES (SSTA)

05/02/24 (S) STATE AFFAIRS at #:30 BELTZ 105  
(TSBldg)

BILL: HB 81

SHORT TITLE: VEHICLES/BOATS: TRANSFER ON DEATH TITLE

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER

02/22/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS

02/22/23 (H) TRA, STA

03/02/23 (H) TRANSPORTATION at 01:00 PM BARNES 124

03/02/23 (H) Heard & Held

03/02/23 (H) Minutes (HTRA)

03/03/23 (H) COSPONSOR(S): SUMNER

03/07/23 (H) TRANSPORTATION at 01:00 PM BARNES 124

03/07/23 (H) Moved HB 81 Out of Committee

03/08/23 (H) TRA RPT 6DP 1NR

03/08/23 (H) DP: C.JOHNSON, SUMNER, MCKAY, MINA,  
VANCE, MCCABE

03/08/23 (H) NR: STUTES

03/08/23 (H) FN1: INDETERMINATE(H.TRA/ADM)

03/21/23 (H) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

03/21/23 (H) Heard & Held

03/29/23 (H) COSPONSOR(S): ORTIZ

04/11/23 (H) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

04/11/23 (H) Moved HB 81 Out of Committee

04/14/23 (H) STA RPT 7DP

04/14/23 (H) DP: ARMSTRONG, STORY, ALLARD,  
C.JOHNSON, CARPENTER, WRIGHT, SHAW

04/14/23 (H) FN1: INDETERMINATE(H.TRA/ADM)

04/14/23 (H) COSPONSOR(S): MCKAY

04/19/23 (H) COSPONSOR(S): TOMASZEWSKI

04/24/23 (H) FIN REFERRAL ADDED AFTER STA

05/04/23 (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519  
 05/04/23 (H) Heard & Held -- Recessed to 5/5/23 at  
 9:30 am --  
 02/01/24 (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519  
 02/01/24 (H) Heard & Held  
 02/14/24 (H) FIN RPT 10DP 1NR  
 02/14/24 (H) DP: STAPP, GALVIN, HANNAN, ORTIZ,  
 COULOMBE, CRONK, TOMASZEWSKI,  
 D.JOHNSON,  
 02/14/24 (H) EDGMON, FOSTER  
 02/14/24 (H) NR: JOSEPHSON  
 02/14/24 (H) FN2: (ADM)  
 02/14/24 (H) COSPONSOR(S): WRIGHT  
 02/14/24 (H) FINANCE at 08:30 AM ADAMS 519  
 02/14/24 (H) Moved HB 81 Out of Committee -- Please  
 Note Time Change --  
 02/15/24 (H) COSPONSOR(S): GALVIN  
 03/04/24 (H) RULES TO CALENDAR 3/4/2024  
 03/04/24 (H) READ THE SECOND TIME  
 03/04/24 (H) ADVANCED TO THIRD READING 3/6 CALENDAR  
 03/04/24 (H) COSPONSOR(S): HANNAN, STAPP, CRONK  
 03/06/24 (H) READ THE THIRD TIME HB 81  
 03/06/24 (H) PASSED Y40  
 03/06/24 (H) EFFECTIVE DATE(S) SAME AS PASSAGE  
 03/06/24 (H) COSPONSOR(S): ALLARD, MINA, STUTES,  
 STORY, TILTON  
 03/06/24 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
 03/06/24 (H) VERSION: HB 81  
 03/07/24 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
 03/07/24 (S) TRA, STA  
 03/21/24 (S) TRANSPORTATION at 01:30 PM BUTROVICH  
 205  
 03/21/24 (S) Heard & Held  
 03/26/24 (S) TRANSPORTATION at 01:30 PM BUTROVICH  
 205  
 03/26/24 (S) Moved HB 81 Out of Committee  
 03/27/24 (S) TRA RPT 1DP 3NR  
 03/27/24 (S) DP: KAUFMAN  
 03/27/24 (S) NR: MYERS, TOBIN, WILSON  
 03/27/24 (S) FN2: (ADM)  
 03/27/24 (S) REFERRED TO STATE AFFAIRS  
 03/27/24 (S) FIN REFERRAL ADDED AFTER STA  
 04/23/24 (S) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:30 PM BELTZ 105  
 (TSBldg)  
 04/23/24 (S) Scheduled but Not Heard  
 04/25/24 (S) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:30 PM BELTZ 105  
 (TSBldg)

04/25/24 (S) Heard & Held  
05/02/24 (S) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:30 PM BELTZ 105  
(TSBldg)

BILL: HB 146

SHORT TITLE: REGULATION OF FIREWORKS

SPONSOR(s): HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

03/29/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/29/23 (H) STA, L&C  
03/29/23 (H) FN1: ZERO(DPS)  
03/29/23 (H) GOVERNOR'S TRANSMITTAL LETTER  
04/13/23 (H) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:00 PM GRUENBERG 120  
04/13/23 (H) Heard & Held  
04/27/23 (H) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:00 PM GRUENBERG 120  
04/27/23 (H) Moved CSHB 146(STA) Out of Committee  
05/01/23 (H) STA RPT CS(STA) 5DP 2NR  
05/01/23 (H) DP: CARPENTER, C.JOHNSON, ALLARD,  
WRIGHT, SHAW  
05/01/23 (H) NR: ARMSTRONG, STORY  
05/01/23 (H) FN1: ZERO(DPS)  
05/08/23 (H) LABOR & COMMERCE at 03:15 PM BARNES 124  
05/08/23 (H) Heard & Held  
01/24/24 (H) LABOR & COMMERCE at 03:15 PM BARNES 124  
01/24/24 (H) Moved CSHB 146(STA) Out of Committee  
01/26/24 (H) L&C RPT CS(STA) 7DP  
01/26/24 (H) DP: FIELDS, CARRICK, PRAX, WRIGHT,  
RUFFRIDGE, SADDLER, SUMNER  
01/26/24 (H) FN2: ZERO(DPS)  
03/20/24 (H) RULES TO CALENDAR 3/20/2024  
03/20/24 (H) READ THE SECOND TIME  
03/20/24 (H) STA CS ADOPTED UC  
03/20/24 (H) AM NO 1 OFFERED  
03/20/24 (H) AM NO 1 NOT TABLED Y20 N20  
03/20/24 (H) AM NO 1 FAILED Y3 N37  
03/20/24 (H) AM NO 2 FAILED Y1 N39  
03/20/24 (H) AM NOS 3, 4, AND 5 NOT OFFERED  
03/20/24 (H) AM NO 6 OFFERED AND WITHDRAWN  
03/20/24 (H) AM NO 7 OFFERED AND WITHDRAWN  
03/20/24 (H) ADVANCED TO THIRD READING 3/21 CALENDAR  
03/21/24 (H) READ THE THIRD TIME CSHB 146(STA)  
03/21/24 (H) PASSED Y39 N1  
03/21/24 (H) EFFECTIVE DATE(S) SAME AS PASSAGE  
03/21/24 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
03/21/24 (H) VERSION: CSHB 146(STA)  
03/22/24 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/22/24 (S) STA, L&C

04/18/24 (S) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:30 PM BELTZ 105  
(TSBldg)  
04/18/24 (S) Heard & Held  
05/02/24 (S) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:30 PM BELTZ 105  
(TSBldg)

BILL: SB 229

SHORT TITLE: GUN VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR TOBIN

02/14/24 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
02/14/24 (S) STA, JUD  
02/14/24 (S) REFERRED TO STATE AFFAIRS  
02/14/24 (S) COSPONSOR(S): GRAY-JACKSON  
04/30/24 (S) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:30 PM BELTZ 105  
(TSBldg)  
04/30/24 (S) Heard & Held  
05/02/24 (S) STATE AFFAIRS at 03:30 PM BELTZ 105  
(TSBldg)

#### **WITNESS REGISTER**

DAVID DUNSMORE, Staff  
Senator Bill Wielechowski  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented the explanation of changes from Version S to R of HB 129.

REPRESENTATIVE SARAH VANCE, District 6  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of HB 129.

EDRA MORLEDGE, Staff  
Representative Julie Coulombe  
Alaska State legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Spoke to HB 286.

JOE HAYES, Staff  
Senator Scott Kawasaki  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented the explanation of changes from Version A to B of HB 81.

RYAN MCKEE, Staff  
Representative George Rauscher  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Spoke to Version B of HB 81.

JOE HAYES, Staff  
Senator Scott Kawasaki  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented the explanation of changes from Version A to S of HB 146.

LISA PURINGTON, Acting Legislative Liaison  
Department of Public Safety  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Spoke to Version S of HB 146.

ROCHELLE PARKER, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 229.

VICTORIA CURRAN, representing self  
Sitka, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 229.

OLIVIA EMERY, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 229.

JANICE PARK, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 229.

JOYANN BLOOM, representing self  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 229.

LAURA SPAAN, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 229.

DAVID LOCKARD, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 229.

RUDY POGLITSH, representing self

Wasilla, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in opposition to SB 229.

GLEND A BLAYLOCK, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 229.

PETER LABARBERA, representing self

Kenai, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in opposition to SB 229.

TERRY NICHOLS, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in opposition to SB 229.

SCOTT SIKKENGA, representing self

Chugiak, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in opposition to SB 229.

APRIL ROCHFORD, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 229.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[3:34:20 PM](#)

**CHAIR SCOTT KAWASAKI** called the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Bjorkman, Merrick, and Chair Kawasaki. Senators Claman and Wielechowski arrived thereafter.

#### **HB 129-ELECTIONS: VOTER REG./LEGAL FUND/COMMS**

[3:36:14 PM](#)

**CHAIR KAWASAKI** announced the consideration of CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 129(JUD), "An Act relating to voter registration; and providing for an effective date."

[3:37:00 PM](#)

At ease

[3:37:16 PM](#)

**CHAIR KAWASAKI** reconvened the meeting.

[3:37:22 PM](#)

**CHAIR KAWASAKI** solicited a motion.

[3:37:23 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK moved to adopt the Senate committee substitute (SCS) for CSHB 129, work order 33-LS0668\R, as the working document.

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI joined the meeting.

[3:37:35 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI objected for purposes of discussion.

[3:37:58 PM](#)

DAVID DUNSMORE, Staff, Senator Bill Wielechowski, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, presented the explanation of changes from Version S to R for HB 129, which includes the following Senate provisions taken from a variety of legislation previously heard by this committee:

[Original punctuation provided.]

**HB 129 version S to CS HB 129 Version R  
Summary of Changes**

**Section 15:** Requires DOE to develop procedures for risk limiting audits (SB 138).

**Sections 1-7, 26:** Allow voters to update their registration within 30 days of an election (SB 138).

**Section 22:** Requires DOE to develop a cybersecurity program (SB 1, SB 138).

**Sections 20-21:** Allow ballot curing (SB 1, SB 19, SB 138).

**Sections 16, 18-20:** Repeals witness signature requirement for absentee ballots (SB 138).

**Section 17:** Prevents special needs ballots from being rejected because of poll worker or representative errors (SB 138).

**Section 23:** Requires disclosure statement for campaign related deepfakes (SB 177).

**Sections 14, 24-25:** Allow campaign legal funds (SB 246).

[3:39:50 PM](#)

SENATOR CLAMAN joined the meeting.

[3:41:29 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SARAH VANCE, District 6, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor of HB 129, noted that she had been on the House floor and therefore had not had a chance to review the SCS. She stated that the SCS contains same day registration along with a host of measures that she does not support. She briefly discussed the unsuccessful history of voting omnibus bills in the legislature. She explained that she chose to take a systematic approach to breaking the larger changes down into smaller changes that more legislators agree on. She explained that the original version of HB 129 received bipartisan support in the House. She noted that the original intent of HB 129 was simply to clean up voter rolls. She opined that this change would show Alaskans that the legislature is serious about systematically approaching election reform. She apologized for not being able to review the SCS and emphasized that she was not able to support it.

[3:43:08 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI acknowledged that the SCS has provisions that were not in the original bill and pointed out that these are from legislation previously heard by the committee. He briefly discussed the path HB 129 will take as it moves through the Senate and expressed the intent for this legislation to move as quickly as possible. He noted that additional changes may be made during this process. He added that the provision regarding 16-year-old pre-registration was removed at the sponsor's request. He acknowledged that the SCS is a work in progress and expressed appreciation for the original intent related to voter list maintenance, registration, and that those on the voter list are able to vote. He reiterated that several other provisions were added from other pieces of legislation previously discussed in committee.

[3:44:54 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE VANCE reiterated that she had not had a chance to review the SCS and expressed appreciation to the committee.

[3:45:33 PM](#)

SENATOR BJORKMAN referred to Section 4 and asked why someone who registers on election day would need to vote an absentee ballot.

[3:45:57 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI said that absentee ballots require specific, detailed information in order to verify the individual's identity. He explained that this process - which is dictated in current law - is intentionally arduous. This is why the absentee ballot was used for those registering to vote on election day.

[3:47:00 PM](#)

MR. DUNSMORE offered additional information regarding the use of absentee or questioned ballots for same-day voting. He explained that the absentee application on the questioned ballot form serves as a voter registration form. He noted that currently, someone who votes a questioned ballot within 30 days of the election will only be counted toward the presidential race. He briefly explained the registration review process and added that this would ensure that individuals are eligible to vote on.

[3:48:04 PM](#)

SENATOR BJORKMAN said that he understands the need to vote a questioned ballot, but wondered why there is an option to vote absentee on Election Day.

[3:48:20 PM](#)

MR. DUNSBAR replied that it would not necessarily be on Election Day, since absentee by mail and in person absentee ballots can be requested within the 30-day window. He explained that absentee in-person is functionally equivalent to a questioned ballot.

[3:49:00 PM](#)

[CHAIR KAWASAKI removed his objection; he found no further objection and SCS CSHB 129 was adopted.]

[3:49:10 PM](#)

[CHAIR KAWASAKI solicited the will of the committee.]

[3:49:17 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK moved to report SCS CSHB 129, work order 33-LS0668\R, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[3:49:31 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI found no objection and SCSHB 129(STA) was reported from the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee.

[3:49:52 PM](#)

At ease

**HB 286-CRIME VICTIM RESTITUTION**

[3:50:21 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 286(STA), "An Act relating to victim restitution and compensation."

[3:51:08 PM](#)

EDRA MORLEDGE, Staff, Representative Julie Coulombe, Alaska State legislature, Juneau, Alaska, referenced a question from the previous hearing regarding the Crime Victim's Compensation Board funding and said she was available to answer any additional questions the committee may have. She shared her understanding that there were also questions about the intent of HB 286. She clarified that HB 286 does not change current victim restitution practices but adds lost income, childcare, eldercare and transportation expenses to the items the court can include in restitution expenses if these are incurred as a result of participating in the investigation.

[3:52:24 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI solicited the will of the committee.

[3:52:31 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK moved to report CSHB 286(STA), [work order 33-LS1012\S], from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[3:52:43 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI found no objection and CSHB 286(STA) was reported from the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee.

[3:52:59 PM](#)

At ease

**HB 81-VEHICLES/BOATS: TRANSFER ON DEATH TITLE**

[3:53:15 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of HOUSE BILL NO. 81, "An Act relating to the transfer of a title on the death of the owner; and providing for an effective date."

[3:53:36 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI solicited a motion.

[3:53:37 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK moved to adopt the Senate committee substitute (SCS) for HB 81, work order 33-LS0366\B, as the working document.

[3:53:49 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI objected for purposes of discussion.

[3:54:00 PM](#)

JOE HAYES, Staff, Senator Scott Kawasaki, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, presented the explanation of changes from Version A to B of HB 81:

[Original punctuation provided.]

**HB 81 Version A to CS HB 81 Version B  
Summary of Changes**

**"An Act relating to the transfer of a title on the death of the owner; and providing for an effective date."**

**Change:**

Page 2, line 27

Insert ", with the names of at least one and not more than two designated beneficiaries,"

**Intent:**

The intention of the change is to make explicit that beneficiaries must be named in order to obtain a transfer on death title from the DMV. This change prevents a situation in which a person obtains a transfer on death title without naming recipients, therefore making them vulnerable to unintended transfer of their property.

[3:54:45 PM](#)

SENATOR CLAMAN said that this change addresses the concerns he raised at the last hearing. He explained that the title recipient must be named prior to leaving the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). He added that any changes must be made in person at the DMV.

[3:55:32 PM](#)

RYAN MCKEE, Staff, Representative George Rauscher, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, said that Representative Rauscher is supportive of the changes contained in the SCS.

[3:55:49 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI removed his objection; finding no further objection, SCS HB 81 was adopted.

[3:55:55 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI solicited the will of the committee.

[3:56:11 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK moved to report SCS HB 81, work order 33-LS0366\B, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[3:56:28 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI found no objection and SCS HB 81(STA) was reported from the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee.

[3:56:46 PM](#)

At ease

#### **HB 146-REGULATION OF FIREWORKS**

[3:57:07 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 146(STA), "An Act relating to fireworks; repealing restrictions on the sale of fireworks; directing the Department of Public Safety to adopt fireworks regulations; and providing for an effective date."

[3:57:27 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI solicited a motion.

[3:57:29 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK moved to adopt the Senate committee substitute (SCS) for HB 146, work order 33-GH1356\S, as the working document.

[3:57:54 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI objected for purposes of discussion.

[3:58:03 PM](#)

JOE HAYES, Staff, Senator Scott Kawasaki, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, presented the explanation of changes from Version B to S of HB 146:

[Original punctuation provided.]

**HB 146 version B to SCS HB 146 Version S**  
**Summary of Changes**

"An Act relating to fireworks; repealing restrictions on the sale of fireworks; directing the Department of Public Safety to adopt fireworks regulations; and providing for an effective date."

The bill was rewritten in consultation with the Department of Public Safety to address concerns raised by committee members.

The current statutory category of "salable fireworks" is replaced with two categories of legal fireworks: "consumer fireworks" which may be sold to the general public and "display fireworks" which can only be used for public display purposes. A new pyrotechnic license is created which will be required to purchase or possess display fireworks. Conforming changes to existing statutes are made throughout the bill.

[3:59:17 PM](#)

LISA PURINGTON, Acting Legislative Liaison, Department of Public Safety, Anchorage, Alaska, expressed her appreciation for the committee working with the department to draft the SCS. She expressed hope that the changes in the SCS address concerns regarding statutory updates, which would help with enforcement, public safety, and licensure.

[4:00:07 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI removed his objection; finding no further objection, SCS CSHB 146 was adopted.

[4:00:17 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI solicited the will of the committee.

[4:00:19 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK moved to report SCS CSHB 146, work order 33-GH1356\S, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[4:00:32 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI found no objection and SCS CSHB 146(STA) was reported from the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee.

[4:00:48 PM](#)

At ease

**SB 229-GUN VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS**

[4:01:24 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 229, "An Act relating to gun violence protective orders; relating to the crime of violating a protective order; relating to a central registry for protective orders; 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."

[4:02:42 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI opened public testimony on SB 229.

[4:02:51 PM](#)

ROCHELLE PARKER, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 229. She said that she is a constituent of Senator Claman. She stated that she reads about incidents of gun violence in the Anchorage Daily News almost weekly. She said that firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in Alaska. Additionally, Alaska has the second highest rate of gun suicides and the fourth highest rate of gun deaths in the nation. She shared that she is the parent of three elementary school aged children and expressed concern with the nationwide trend of gun violence in schools. She expressed frustration with the lack of response from local communities. She shared her belief that SB 229 would be a powerful tool to prevent mass shootings and firearm suicide in Alaska. She shared stories of families impacted by gun violence and gun suicide. She opined that SB 229 could have saved those individuals' lives. She noted that the National Rifle Association also supports ensuring that dangerous individuals do not have access to guns. She opined that SB 229 provides due process to achieve this result without infringing on the rights of gun owners and briefly described this process. She noted that other states with extreme risk laws have penalties in place for those who provide a false statement. She added that these laws have withstood constitutional challenges. She emphasized the importance of taking action to stop tragedy before it arrives.

[4:05:24 PM](#)

VICTORIA CURRAN, representing self, Sitka, Alaska, testified in support of SB 229. She shared that her life has been touched by gun suicide and homicide. She stated that Alaska has the second highest rate of gun suicide and the fourth highest rate of gun

deaths in the country. She asserted that lawmakers should do all they can to prevent gun violence. She suggested that Alaska join the 21 states already utilizing extreme risk laws. She commented on the role of scientific research in creating effective policy. She noted that parents and law enforcement are among the first to recognize warning signs for gun violence or gun suicide and briefly described this process. She stated that for every ten extreme risk petitions that are granted, one life is saved. She said that the ripple effect of a single gun death is catastrophic and emphasized the positive impact extreme risk legislation would have had in Alaska in 2023.

[4:07:31 PM](#)

OLIVIA EMERY, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 229. She said Alaska has the second highest rate of gun suicide. She shared that she lost a family member to gun suicide. She stated that this is not a partisan issue and opined that extreme risk legislation would save many lives.

[4:08:26 PM](#)

JANICE PARK, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 229. She said that federal law prohibits those charged with domestic violence from owning a gun. She added that every month, an average of 57 women are killed by guns at the hands of their domestic partner. She opined that an extreme risk protective order (ERPO) would protect Alaskan women, who are most often the victim of domestic violence - and who face a higher risk of death by gun at the hands of their significant other than any other state. She said that Alaska is second in the country for gun suicide. She shared a story of a former Alaska legislator who lost close family members to gun suicide. She urged members to consider the victims of domestic violence and the tragic consequences of gun suicides. She opined that SB 229 could avert these. She noted that previously introduced ERPO legislation was supported by nearly 80 percent of gun owners.

[4:10:43 PM](#)

JOYANN BLOOM, representing self, Juneau, Alaska, testified in support of SB 229. She expressed appreciation for legislation that addresses gun violence in the state without impacting second amendment rights. She shared about a family domestic dispute involving guns. She stated that SB 229 would provide a cool-down period without access to weapons that could make a difference in these situations. She added that this legislation would protect Alaskans from gun violence and gun suicides. She shared a variety of reasons someone may reach for a gun and act

out of rage. She asserted that legislators are in a position to prevent these tragedies.

4:12:03 PM

LAURA SPAAN, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 229. She said that she is a gun owner and emphasized the importance of being a responsible gun owner, keeping guns out of the hands of children and those who are at risk of hurting themselves or others. She commented that this is an act she can take as an individual and asserted that community action must also be taken. She emphasized the importance of living in safety and avoiding tragedy. She briefly shared two stories of gun violence that impacted her life. She opined that failure to enact laws that create greater responsibility around gun use and ownership is a failure to Alaskans.

4:15:08 PM

DAVID LOCKARD, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 229. He said that he is an occasional hunter and owns two guns, which he keeps in a gun safe. He stated that Alaska ranks fourth in the nation for gun-related deaths and second in the nation for gun suicides. He said an extreme risk law would allow law enforcement and family members to intervene before tragedy strikes. He pointed out that 21 states have similar laws in place and added that Alaska should follow suit.

4:16:13 PM

RUDY POGGITSH, representing self, Wasilla, Alaska, testified in opposition to SB 229. He stated that red flag laws do not reduce gun violence or gun suicide. He added that, according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Rhode Island, these laws could negatively impact those who pose no real threat to themselves or others. He stated that all 50 states have laws and procedures in place to address these issues.

4:17:13 PM

GLENDIA BLAYLOCK, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 229. She shared that her family has been impacted twice by gun violence. She said that the stories of those impacted are heartbreaking and shared her belief that SB 229 would help save some lives in Alaska.

4:18:26 PM

PETER LABARBERA, representing self, Kenai, Alaska, testified in opposition to SB 229. He shared his belief that there are already laws in place to regulate this problem.

[4:19:10 PM](#)

TERRY NICHOLS, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in opposition to SB 229. He shared his belief that this legislation is flawed. He asserted that it opens the door for abuse. He added that individuals' rights could be stripped based on false allegations and assumptions - and without any supporting evidence. He expressed concern about ex-parte warrants. He stated that, while 21 states have enacted similar laws, 28 states have chosen not to. He asserted that there is no evidence that extreme risk laws have had the intended consequences in any state. He shared five states where red flag laws failed - or would have failed and gave this as evidence that red flag laws are not the solution. He shared his belief that firearm education starting at a young age (as is done in Wyoming) would teach firearm safety. He stated that SB 229 conflicts with the 2nd, 4th, and 14th constitutional amendments. He said that, in the *United States v Rahimi*, the Supreme Court held that red flag laws are unconstitutional.

[4:22:15 PM](#)

SCOTT SIKKENGA, representing self, Chugiak, Alaska, testified in opposition to SB 229. He said he has five children. He expressed doubt that decreased access to firearms will result in fewer deaths and asserted that increasing the government's ability to seize firearms makes law abiding citizens less safe. He opined that SB 229 would simply enable the government - and a political party - to seize firearms from those they disagree with, creating an environment where individuals are "guilty until proven innocent." He expressed concern with increasing governmental reach. He said that current laws adequately address this issue. He shared a story illustrating how friends and family can obtain firearms from at-risk loved ones without government intervention.

[4:24:57 PM](#)

APRIL ROCHFORD, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 229. She said she has two children and is a member of the scientific community. She stated that she experiences gun violence regularly in Alaska's largest city. She expressed concern about the possibility of school shootings. She offered several statistics to illustrate that red flag laws result in fewer deaths.

[4:27:30 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI held public testimony on SB 229 open.

[4:27:59 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI held SB 229 in committee.

4:29:17 PM

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Kawasaki adjourned the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee meeting at 4:29 p.m.