

S B

4 2 3

Alaska State Legislature

CO-CHAIRMAN
FINANCE COMMITTEE
907-465-3740



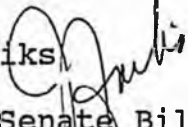
JAN FAIKS
POUCH V
CAPITOL BUILDING
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

Senate

February 25, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Mitch Abood, Chairman
Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Senator Jan Faiks 

SUBJECT: Background on Senate Bill 423, an Act creating a missing persons information clearinghouse.

The locating of missing persons has been hampered in this state by the lack of consistent procedures for receiving, processing, and sharing information about lost persons. Each law enforcement agency seems to have its own method for handling reports of missing persons, for dealing with relatives of the victim, and for coordinating search efforts with others.

Often, this lack of consistency has resulted in undue expense to the government and needless anxiety for friends and relatives. The problem is aggravated by the vastness of our state. A body washed up on the shores of the Bering Sea is not matched with a missing persons report filed in Ketchikan. Village officials continue to investigate the disappearance of a teenager long after she has been found by authorities in Fairbanks.

By creating a central repository for collecting and handling information about missing persons, Senate Bill 423 should relieve these problems.

Section 1 establishes the Clearinghouse and requires it to create a statewide system for handling information about missing persons. The Clearinghouse will collect and disseminate this information throughout Alaska. It will communicate with the National Crime Information Center about missing persons cases, and will train officials on how to best to use the Clearinghouse.

OUT OF SESSION

1024 WEST SIXTH AVENUE, SUITE 302 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501 907-274-6611

This section places a duty on all law enforcement agencies to send to the Clearinghouse all reports of missing persons who have not been found within three days.

It also allows agencies to obtain medical and dental records that will help identify bodies. If relatives of the missing persons are available, family members must file a request for these records before the agencies can acquire them. If no relatives are available, the law enforcement agencies can obtain records on their own initiative. The agencies must send these records to the Clearinghouse.

For failing to turn over reports to the Clearinghouse or records to the agencies, the bill provides a maximum civil penalty of \$10,000.

The bill also requires persons to notify the Clearinghouse once persons who are reported missing are located. The failure to comply with this requirement carries a maximum civil penalty of \$1000.

Section 2 of the bill amends a current statute which deals with procedures for handling missing persons reports within the Department of Public Safety. This section adds the additional duty of filing these reports with the Clearinghouse.