

SB

38

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

Date of 1/21/87 5-DAY NOTICE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNIFORM RULE 23

FURTHER: JUDICIARY

**FISCAL NOTE(S) ATTACHED 1 **
IN ACCORDANCE WITH AS 24.08.035
(see below)

1/19/87 DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 1/27/87
Mr. President:

STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered SB 38

relating to the recording and collection of crime statistics.

and recommended:

replace with CS SB 38 (SA) same title
 attached amendment(s) and new title

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

letter of intent adopted and attached

** Committee attached or adopted fiscal note(s)
 zero fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

[Signature]
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup Attached

Alaska State Legislature



PRESIDENT
907-465-3755

JAN FAIKS
POST OFFICE BOX V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

Senate

January 26, 1987

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Mitch Abood, Chairman
Senate Affairs Committee

FROM: Senator Jan Faiks, President of the Senate *Jan Faiks*

SUBJECT: Background on Senate Bill 38
An Act relating to the recording and collection
of crime statistics

Senate Bill 38 has been referred to your committee for consideration. This bill proposes an amendment to AS 44.41.020 to give the Department of Public Safety authority to establish and require standardized collection and recordation of law enforcement and crime statistics by local departments statewide.

The Department of Public Safety does not presently have statutory authority to require how arrest information will be classified and reported by state and local law enforcement agencies. As a result, the slightly different collection and classification procedures used by the more than 20 police jurisdictions in Alaska could distort the statewide crime statistics.

Most of the local police departments that elect to participate in the Department's system use an incident-by-incident method of reporting all criminal calls they answer. However, the State's two largest police departments, Anchorage and Fairbanks, employ different recording methods. My concern is that the inconsistencies in the classification and reporting of arrest data between local jurisdictions may not accurately reflect the level of crime in the State.

OUT OF SESSION

6060 YUKON DRIVE ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99516 907-274-6611



AS 44.41.020 stipulates the duties of the Department of Public Safety. The new subsection to AS 44.41.020 proposed by this bill enables the Department to establish and require state and local law enforcement agencies to use standardized methods of collecting and recording law enforcement and crime statistics. It does not otherwise alter the existing statute.

BILL NO: SB 38

DATE: 1/23/87

TITLE: "An Act relating to the recording and collection of crime statistics."

CONTACT: Jos Mapranath
Director
Division of Administrative Services

A Legislative Audit report (06-4251-86-S) with DHSS Division of Family and Youth Services noted that the Department of Public Safety lacked the statutory authority to obtain crime statistics for the Uniform Crime Reporting System. This bill directly addresses this situation.

The Department of Public Safety's position on SB 38 is neutral. The basis for this position is because steps are already being taken to standardize reporting procedures utilized by the Uniform Crime Reporting section.

The Alaska UCR program, which collects and reports on crime offense data state-wide, is part of a network of states that report crime data to the FBI, which administers the program on the national level. Guidelines and procedures used for collecting data are developed by the FBI.

Crime data forwarded to the state UCR program is provided by 25 police agencies on a voluntary basis. The data submitted is either in an incident-based format--where each offense that occurs at a criminal incident is reported; or a summary-based format--where just the most severe offense within a criminal event is reported. Our larger police agencies, namely the Alaska State Troopers, Anchorage Police Department and Fairbanks Police Department, utilize the summary-based system whereas the smaller agencies use the incident-based reporting format. This data is then processed and forwarded to the FBI for publication in Crime in the U.S. and used on the state level for publication of Crime in Alaska.

The FBI, recognizing the problem with the different reporting methods being used, recently completed a three-year study culminating in the recommendation that all states adopt an incident-based reporting system based upon a report format designed by the FBI. As part of their study, the need for new definitions and data required by the FBI was proposed and currently the new data elements, definitions, and report design are being tested in a pilot program in South Carolina. The FBI hopes to have its new reporting system refined and ready to present to the states this year. When this occurs all reporting systems utilized by the Uniform Crime Reporting sections to collect and report crime offense data will be standardized.

The Department favors the proposal of requiring law enforcement agencies to use a standard process of reporting crime data but must point out that police agencies have been very cooperative in voluntarily providing their information in the past. However, to require standardization requires changes which could elicit resistance, especially if it entails money, by the police departments.

Since the UCR program is already moving in the direction of standardizing crime data they collect, the Department feels that the intent of this bill is already being met.


WILLIAM R. NIX
Acting Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY / CRIME STATISTICS

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: SB 38
Publish Date: _____

REQUEST
Revision Date: _____
Title: "An Act relating to the recording and collecting of crime statistics."
Sponsor: Sen. Faiks
Requestor: Senate State Affairs

Agency Affected: Public Safety
BRU: _____
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
OPERATING						
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact is anticipated.

Prepared by: Kathy Niles
Division: Administrative Services

Phone: 465-4336
Date: 1/23/87

Approved by Commissioner: William R. Nix
Agency: Public Safety

Date: 1/23/87

Distribution (by preparer):
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