

**HB**

**47**

**HB**

**48**

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)  
Date Referred to Committee: January 13, 1997

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Judiciary  
Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/26/97

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 47

HOUSE BILL NO. 47

TELEPHONE VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

"An Act relating to authorizing the Department of Corrections to provide an automated victim notification and prisoner information system."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute \_\_\_\_\_  the same title  a new title

additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) Corrections APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)  
 fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_  fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_  zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Shannette James</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>			✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *Shannette James*

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN KEMPLER

## Sponsor Statement for House Bill 47

**"An Act relating to authorizing the Department of Corrections to provide an automated victim notification and prisoner information system."**

Each day, over 600 concerned Alaskans call our state institutions seeking information on inmates. Alaska's prisons and pre-trial facilities housed 2,990 inmates, 49% of whom are considered violent in November, 1996. Clearly proper and timely notification to victims about the release or escape of their attackers can improve their sense of safety.

A state-of-the-art computer system, called Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) was developed to keep crime victims informed of inmate activity. VINE provides two important services that enhance that vital link of communication between the justice system and the victim.

First: VINE provides automatic notification calls to a crime victim when an inmate's status changes. If an inmate is released, transferred, posts bail or escapes, VINE places an automated telephone call to all registered victims within 10 minutes of the change in the offender's status. VINE continues to call the victim for 24 hours or until successful notification is verified by the victim.

Second: VINE provides critical inmate information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the automated telephone system. VINE allows confidential exchange of information. Victims may access information on a prisoner through the use of personal identification numbers. Victims may easily enter new contact numbers.

Kentucky became the first state to implement VINE statewide in February, 1996. During the first 90 days of operation, over 20,000 phone calls were processed. Over 600 victims were notified through VINE of impending inmate releases. Three months later, over 3,500 successful notifications had been made, with an average of 7 new registrations a day. Currently, the VINE Company has contracts with over 150 counties in more than 12 states, including Texas, California, New Jersey, Georgia and Michigan.

The goal of this legislation is to meet the need for timely, efficient and reliable notification to a victim about the offender's status. This legislation provides for the use of innovative technology that will assist corrections staff charged with the responsibility of notifying crime victims who may move. This legislation gives victims control. The timely notification will allow victims to prepare for offenders' releases and victims can, in confidence, keep corrections staff informed of their telephone contact numbers.

**I urge your support and prompt passage.**

SESSION  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 00801-1182  
007) 465-2435  
007) 465-0015 FAX  
1-800-550-2435

INTERIM  
710 W. 4TH AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 00501  
007) 258-8100



## General VINE™ Information

Interactive Systems was formed in 1992 to develop automated systems utilizing computer technology and telephone equipment.

In January of 1994 Interactive Systems cooperated with Jefferson County officials to study automated technology and victim notification.

In January of 1995 due to the success of the VINE™ program, Interactive Systems reformatted to focus exclusively on the VINE™ system and automated notification. A dba (doing business as), The VINE™ Company, was selected as the new name.

VINE™ program cost includes a low start-up fee and a monthly service component. Several funding options, including state and federal grants, are available.

Cost is based on inmate population, notification needs and optional parameters. Each program is unique and developed specifically for each community.

All inmate information accessed through VINE™ is public information. VINE™ differs from other notification programs by providing an automated, rather than manual, method of victim notification.

Currently, the VINE™ Company has contracts with over 150 counties in over 12 states including Kentucky, New Jersey, Texas, California, Michigan, Georgia and Florida.

The VINE™ system received national recognition as the only automated program for victim information and notification.



## VINE™ System Facts

VINE™ is a fully automated service that alerts victims upon the release of an inmate and provides vital custody status information via the telephone.

### How VINE™ works

A centralized computer system located in Louisville, Kentucky constantly monitors inmate activity at each jail or prison site.

When an inmate has a change in status, VINE™ reacts immediately to contact all registered victims. Telephone calls continue for 24 hours or until a successful notification is verified.

### How Victims Register

Victims register with VINE™ by calling a local access telephone number and following the prompts given by the computer. Some communities may opt to have victims automatically registered by the arresting agency involved with the case.

A personal identification number (PIN) for each victim is requested by VINE™.

The PIN number, entered by a victim after a notification, confirms a successful contact.

### Benefits of Implementing VINE™ for a Victim

Registered persons are automatically called by VINE™ within ten minutes of an inmate transfer or release.

Vital inmate information is continuously available through the VINE™ information hotline.

VINE™ allows for confidential information exchange. Victims do not have to reveal their identity when registering or accessing inmate status.

Victims can register alternate telephone numbers with VINE™ and can easily enter a new telephone number if there is a change of address.

### For Prosecutors and Jail Administrators

VINE™ has letter generating capabilities and is available in multiple languages.

The centralized call center is monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Notification is efficient and reliable.

All telephone calls and letters are documented.

A complete audit trail of VINE™ activity is readily available.

A VINE™ program can be customized to meet the needs of each community.



## VINE™ System Features

VINE™ is a ground breaking system for Victim Assistance and Notification Programs around the country. It's current design includes features such as:

- **Full integration** with the existing Jail or Prison Information System. This means no additional workload for data input personnel.
- **Automated Dial in Query of Inmate Status.** The system will support an incoming line which allows a victim to query the status of an inmate.
- **Automated Registration of Victims** via any telephone using a combination of advanced Voice Recognition technology. This method is far superior to those requiring alphanumeric data to be typed into the telephone handset.
- **Letter Generation** for notifying victims of upcoming parole board hearings and other emergency situations.
- **Advanced Voice Recognition Technology.** This feature increases the usability of the system by allowing access to *30% of the population which do not have a touch tone telephone.* All users will find this registration approach much simpler and quicker.
- **Automated Notification** to two different phone numbers per victim. This function will provide an automated voice message once contact is made.
- **Message Confirmation** ensures that the message was delivered to the proper person.
- **Complete Audit Reports** which display daily activity on a per day or per case basis. These audit reports will be quickly recalled to a printer or CRT to review the systems performance.
- **Foreign Language Capabilities** available upon request.



## VINE™ Demonstration Line

The VINE™ demonstration line will allow you to get a general feel of how the VINE™ victim notification service will work in your community. In order to use the demonstration, you should be at a telephone that will accept direct incoming calls. Part of the demonstration includes the VINE™ system calling you and notifying of an inmate's release.

Simple steps to use the demonstration.

1. Dial the VINE™ Demonstration Line 1-800-816-0490
2. The demo will allow you to search for an inmate using an inmate number or the inmate's name. Either choice can be selected. The demonstration has three inmates. Use the information shown below.

<u>Inmate Number</u>	<u>Inmate Name</u>
5619463	Mike Davis
5611825	Gail Hart
5619122	Tom Jones

3. After the VINE™ system responds with the inmate's status, you will be asked if you wish to register for notification. Select option 2 to register notification.
4. When VINE™ tells you to enter the telephone numbers, enter one or two telephone numbers for VINE™ to call you back.
5. VINE will also have you enter a Personal Identification Code (PIN) to confirm the notification call.

If the line is not answering, call 1-800-816-0491 and indicate you wish to use the demonstration line.

After hanging up, the VINE™ system will call the first number entered within 1 minute. When the notification call arrives, answer the phone as normal and follow the directions.

STATE OFFICE  
**ALASKA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 240106 Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0106 Phone (907) 277-0515 Fax (907) 272-5355

January 17, 1997

RECEIVED JAN 24 ..

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Joseph E. Young  
Anchorage

**Board of Directors**

Michael Corkill, President  
Fairbanks

Robin Lown, Vice President  
Juneau

Mike Grimes, Past President  
Anchorage

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Pres. Wrangell Chapter

Leroy Mestas, Member  
Ketchikan  
Pres. First City Chapter

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Craig  
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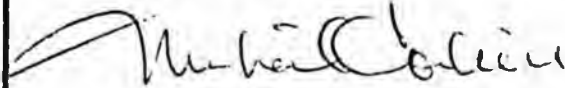
Representative Allen Kemplen  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (MS 3100)  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kemplen,

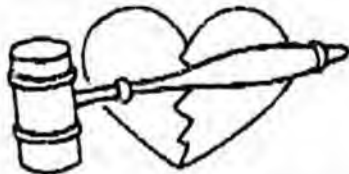
On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association, I would like to thank you for introducing House Bills 47 and 48 relating to authorizing the Department of Corrections to provide an automated victim notification and prisoner information system and appropriations for the same. At a recent meeting of the APOA State Board, we decided to unanimously support this legislation. We believe that the better the communications are between Corrections, departments, municipalities and victims, the better the prevention of prisoner-related problems.

We encourage you to call on us when there are hearings on these bills, so that we may testify about the need for this legislation. If you need assistance as you shepherd these bills through the legislative process, please call me at 451-5316, or our business manager, Joseph Young at 277-0515.

Sincerely,



Michael Corkill  
APOA State President

**VICTIMS**

**for Justice** 619 East Fifth Avenue • Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 278-0977 • Fax: (907) 258-0740

March 11, 1997

The Honorable Representative Jeanette James, Chair  
State Affairs Committee  
State Capitol, Room 102  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative James:

I am writing to you to urge you to support the swift passage of House Bill 47 and House Bill 48: *An Act relating to authorizing the Department of Corrections to provide an automated victims notification and prisoner information system.*

Alaskan families and victims of violent crime deserve to be recognized and assisted by Alaska's Department of Corrections. In fact, in 1994, the people of Alaska overwhelmingly passed at the state level, the Victims' Bill of Rights. This Constitutional amendment makes *explicit* the *right* to be *informed, present and heard* at the same proceedings where the accused or convicted offenders have such rights. As you are aware, the Alaska Department of Corrections has statutory duties relating to crime victims, ranging from the notification of parole hearings; transfers to other facilities; an escape or release from custody to supervising restitution compliance. The Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) computer system will enhance Alaska's Department of Corrections relationship with the families and victims of violent crimes and will significantly increase compliance with the intent of these laws.

Sincerely,

Janice Lienhart

Executive Director

cc: Representative Allen Kemplen

# Municipality of Anchorage



P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, Alaska 99509-6650  
Telephone: (907) 343-4250

*Rick Mystrom, Mayor*

DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
Office of the Prosecutor  
420 L Street, Suite 100

March 19, 1997

Representative Jeannette James  
State Capitol, Room 102  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Jeannette James;

I am writing on behalf of the Municipal Prosecutors Office, the Municipality of Anchorage and its people, and all the victims of domestic violence. I urge your support for the passage of House Bill 47 and the attendant appropriations bill.

Since the passage of the Domestic Violence Protection/Victim Protection act of 1996, particularly the amendments to AS 12.30.027, Prosecutor and District Attorney offices around the state have been charged with a responsibility we simply cannot meet this in any meaningful manner.

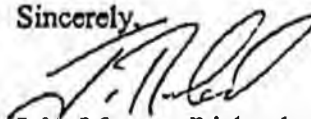
AS 12.30.027(d)(1) provides:

When a person is released from custody under (a) of this section (bail), from a correctional facility, the correctional facility shall notify the prosecuting authority and the prosecuting authority shall make reasonable efforts to immediately notify the alleged victim of the release, and to furnish the alleged victim with a copy of the order setting any conditions of release.

As things stand now, there simply are no reasonable efforts we can make to immediately notify the victim if a defendant makes bail at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning, which is when most of these arrests are made.

An automated and statewide victim notification system is the only meaningful method of complying with AS 12.30.027. If we are to protect the victim's of domestic violence and remain at the forefront of domestic violence prosecution, this system must be implemented.

Sincerely,



John Marston Richard  
Chief Municipal Prosecutor

cc: Representative Kubina

# Alaska State Legislature



*Roll  
file  
HB 47*

Official Business  
Fax: (907) 465-3472

State Capitol  
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3720  
(907) 465-2689

Speaker of the House of Representatives

March 27, 1997

Mr. John Marston Richard  
Chief Municipal Prosecutor  
Municipality of Anchorage  
PO Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519-6650

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APR - 2 1996

Rep. Jeannette James

Dear Mr. Richard:

Thank you for your letter regarding House Bill 47 relating to an automated victim notification and prisoner information system. I assure you that I will keep your comments in mind as we debate this bill on the House floor. In addition, I will forward a copy of your letter to Rep. Jeannette James, Chair of the House State Affairs Committee, HB 47's first committee of referral. HB 47, as you are most probably aware, has further referrals to the House Judiciary and Finance Committees.

Again, I appreciate hearing from you and hope you will continue to share those issues of concern to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Phillips".

Gail Phillips  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

GP:jmj

cc w/enc: Rep. Jeannette James

Municipality  
of  
Anchorage



P.O. Box 190050  
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-0050  
Telephone: (907) 343-1250

*Rick Mystrom, Mayor*

DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
Office of the Prosecutor  
120 E. Street, Suite 100

March 19, 1997

Representative Gail Phillips  
State Capitol, Room 208  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

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Sincerely,

  
John Marston Richard  
Chief Municipal Prosecutor

cc: Representative Kubina



John Richards  
343-4250 Duch

Municipal Prosecutor  
Pal

Wet

May 2840

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



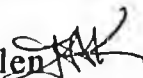
REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN KEMPLER



MEMORANDUM

January 28, 1997

To: Representative Jeanette James, Chair  
House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Allen Kempler 

Re: Hearing Request for House Bill 47 and House Bill 48:  
"An Act relating to authorizing the Department of  
Corrections to provide an automated victim  
notification and prisoner information system; and  
An Act making a special appropriation for an automated  
victim notification system; and providing for an  
effective date.

I respectfully request that you schedule House Bill 47 and House Bill 48 for a hearing at your earliest possible convenience. I have attached sponsor statement and other supporting materials.

Thank you for your consideration.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 47

Revision Date: <u>4/25/97</u>	Dept. Affected: <u>Corrections</u>
Title: <u>Authorizing Department of Corrections to provide</u>	BRU: <u>Administration and Support</u>
<u>Automated Victim Notification &amp; Prisoner Information System</u>	Component: <u>Data and Word Processing</u>
Sponsor: <u>Representative Kemplen</u>	
Requester: <u>H. State Affairs</u>	COMPONENT SERIAL NO. <u>698</u>

**Expenditures/Revenues**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	144.1	90.9	90.9	90.9	90.9	90.9
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT	3.0					
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>150.1</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>93.9</b>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ( 1005 )	0.0	93.9	93.9	93.9	93.9	93.9
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**FUND SOURCE**

(Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	150.1					
1005 GF/Program Receipts		93.9	93.9	93.9	93.9	93.9
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150.1</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>93.9</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: \$ 0.0

**POSITIONS**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This information is the Department's best estimate for system and operation costs of an automatic victim notification system for Alaska's prisons, jails, probation offices, and CRC locations. Exact expenditures would not be available until the Department received responses to an RFP for an automated victim notification system.

There would be no charge for notifying victims of changes in prisoner's status. The estimated revenues shown are anticipated through fees charged to members of the public who wish to obtain additional information such as bail costs, charges, visitation, or information on prisoners who have been released.

Prepared by: Bruce Richards  
 Division: Office of the Commissioner  
 Approved by: Commissioner Margaret M. Pugh *Margaret M. Pugh*  
 Agency: Department of Corrections

Phone: 465-3307  
 Date: 4/25/97  
 Date: 4/25/97

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