

**SB**

**25**

Municipality  
of  
Anchorage



P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650  
Telephone: (907) 343-4431  
Fax: (907) 343-4499

*Rick Mystrom, Mayor*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 25, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 25 1997

ANSW.....

Senator Lyda Green  
State Capitol, Room 125  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: Senate Bill 25

Dear Senator Green:

I urge your support of Senate Bill 25 providing for a statewide automated victim notification system. The victims of violent crime and sex offenses deserve a criminal justice system responsive to their needs and concerns; passage of the VINE legislation will provide this.

When the legislature passed the Domestic Violence Act of 1996, it imposed a burden on prosecutors to "make reasonable efforts to immediately notify the alleged victim of the release [of the defendant] and to furnish the alleged victim with a copy of the order setting any conditions of release." This task can only be reasonably accomplished through implementation of an automated victim notification system.

The VINE system has proven effective in 12 states. The State of Alaska should be on the cutting edge of increasing responsiveness to victim concerns. We should not lag behind in this area.

As chair of the Senate Committee of State Affairs, your support would be instrumental in achieving the passage of this bill. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rick Mystrom  
Mayor of Anchorage

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate Health, Education and  
Social Services Committee

Senate Judiciary Committee

Department of Health and Social  
Services Budget Subcommittee

Department of Law  
Budget Subcommittee



*While in Session:*  
State Capitol, Rm. 9  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907) 465-3704  
fax: (907) 465-2529

*While in Anchorage:*  
716 West 4th Ave., Ste. 440  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 258-8182  
fax: (907) 258-5571

## SENATOR JOHNNY ELLIS

### Sponsor Statement for Senate Bill 25

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

Proper and timely notification to victims about the release or escape of their attackers is a serious problem, both nationally and in Alaska. In November 1996, Alaska's prisons and pre-trial facilities housed 2,990 inmates, 49% of whom are considered violent. Each day, over 600 concerned Alaskans call our state institutions seeking information on inmates.

In order to keep crime victims informed of inmate activity, a state-of-the-art computer system called Victim Information and Notification Everyday (V.I.N.E.) was developed. V.I.N.E. provides two important services which enhance the vital link of communication between the justice system and victims of crime.

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

Second, V.I.N.E. provides critical inmate information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the automated telephone system. V.I.N.E. allows for a confidential exchange of information. Victims may access information on a prisoner through the use of a personal identification number, and they may easily enter new contact numbers.

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

Implementing V.I.N.E. will increase state compliance with the Victims' Bill of Rights, overwhelmingly passed by the people of Alaska in 1994. The V.I.N.E. computer system will enhance the Department of Corrections relationship with the families and victims of violent crimes.

I urge your support and prompt passage.



## 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.



## 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.



# Bethel Police Department

RECEIVED  
FEB 20 1997  
ANS'D

P.O. Box 500 : Bethel, Alaska 99559  
543-3785

February 7, 1997

Senator Lyda Green, Chair  
State Affairs Committee  
Room 125  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

RE: Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)  
Senate Bill Nos: 25

Dear Senator Green,

The Bethel Police Department is very much in support of the VINE legislation.

We feel it is critical that the rights' of the victims of violent crime are defended. It is paramount to the well-being of every victim that they be notified of and have access to obtain information regarding the activities of the violent offender.

Most sincerely,

Gary K. Eilers  
Chief of Police

cc: Senator Johnny Ellis  
Room 9  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182



# WOMEN IN CRISIS

*Counseling and Assistance*

717 Ninth Avenue • Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 452-2293 • Fax: 452-2613 • 1-800-478-7273

RECEIVED  
FEB 17 1997  
Ans'd.....

February 12, 1997

Senator Lyda Green, Chair  
State Affairs Committee  
State Capitol, Room 125  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Green:

**SB25**

I am writing in support of SB 25, "An Act relating to authorizing the Department of Corrections to provide an automated victim notification and prisoner information system" and SB 26, providing funding.

**SB26**

Passage of and funding for SB 25 will allow for greater safety for victims of violent crimes. It would save victims from physical harm and save lives. It stands to reason that the sooner this bill becomes law, the sooner can this protection be provided. Therefore, I urge you to facilitate both bills' passage this session.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandy Samaniego  
Executive Director

cc: Senator Johnny Ellis

**Pamela Lutgen-Sandvik**  
**PO Box 878464**  
**Wasilla, AK 99687-8464**



RECEIVED  
FEB 10 1997  
Ans'd.....

February 4, 1997

Senator Lyda Green  
Chair, State Affairs Committee  
Room 125  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Green:

I recently read SB 25 and SB 26 regarding an automated system that notifies victims when their perpetrators have been released, transferred to another facility or have posted bail. Through the system, victims can also call to check on the status of an inmate anytime through an anonymous process that protects their safety. I fully endorse this legislation and encourage you to consider affirmative action on this bill.

The VINE system is highly cost-effective since it is entirely computerized. Aside from the initial set-up and data entry, the system is extremely low-maintenance. Creating this system of victim notification will increase greatly the safety of those victimized by violent offenders and reduce significantly the opportunity for re-offense to victimized families.

We have suffered some major tragedies in the past year. While the VINE system will not ameliorate all violent deaths, it has the potential to prevent many and make the Mat-Su Borough a safer place for all of us to live.

Sincerely,

  
Pamela L. Sandvik

CC: Senator Johnny Ellis



# advocates for victims of violence

RECEIVED

MAR 13 1997

Ass'd.....

P.O. Box 524 • Valdez, Alaska 99686

24 Hour Crisis Line (907) 835-2999 • Office (907) 835-2980 • FAX (907) 835-2981

March 1, 1997

Senator Lyda Green, Chair  
State Affairs Committee  
Room 125, State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Green:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 25 and Senate Bill 26. These bills would authorize the Department of Corrections to provide an automated victim notification and prisoner information system in the State of Alaska. This system is commonly referred to as "VINE." Victims of violence deserve prompt and accurate information regarding the status of the perpetrator, including release, transfer, posting bail, or escape. In many cases, this information may be a matter of life and death, especially in the cases of victims of domestic and sexual violence.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. I urge you to consider co-sponsoring the bills, ensuring your support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tamara McCurry  
Evening Advocate

cc: Senator Johnny Ellis



March 5, 1997

Dear Senator Green,

RECEIVED

MAR 15 1997

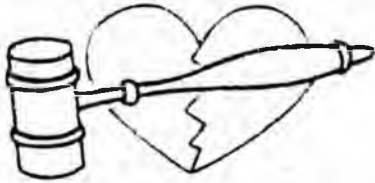
I strongly urge you to support  
SB 25 and 26. Alaskans who have been  
victimized should not also live in  
daily fear that the perpetrator will  
be released without their knowledge.  
An efficient and reliable method for  
victim notification that reduces the  
burden on corrections staff is in all  
of our best interests. The VINE system  
seems an excellent way to accomplish  
this essential public service.  
Thank-you in advance for moving  
these bills

Sincerely,

Patty Karklin

4920 Anderson Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

## VICTIMS



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

March 11, 1997

The Honorable Senator Lyda Green, Chair  
State Affairs Committee  
State Capitol, Room 125  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RECEIVED

Dear Senator Green:

I am writing to you to urge you to support the swift passage of Senate Bill 25 and Senate Bill 26: *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: Senator Johnny Ellis

# Alaska Women's Lobby

P.O. Box 210685 Anchorage 99521  
211 Fourth Street Suite 108 Juneau 99801

phone: 907-586-1107  
fax: 907-586-1097

RECEIVED  
MAR 20 1997  
KPS d. ✓

## POSITION STATEMENT

### ~~SB25/SB26:~~ Automated Victim Notification/Prisoner Identification System

These bills authorize and fund an automated victim notification system called Victim Information and Notification Everyday (V.I.N.E.) This system automatically places calls to victims to notify them that their attacker has been released, transferred to another facility or posted bail. Victims may also anonymously call to check on the status of an inmate anytime.

We heartily support the goal of this legislation to provide an efficient and reliable method of notifying crime victims when the inmate has a change of status. Timely notification allows a victim to prepare for the perpetrator's release, which can sometimes involve taking lifesaving precautions. In addition, the burden placed on corrections and victim/witness staff, charged with responsibility for notifying the crime victim, is significantly reduced.

The Alaska Women's Lobby supports these bills and applauds this effort to make life a little safer for victims of crime. We urge prompt passage.

To all house and Senate members reference bill 25

Vine sounds like a skeem similar to the bounty hunters, photo radar to extract money from the taxpayer.

Who is Vine? Is it another Arizona company out to make a buck off Alaska. Is it really nessessary just because a couple of other states have it. Am sure the victims of a parisoner pretty well keep track of person. The 600 calls a day, as states by some polls are probably from friends, relatives or pardners in crime trying to figure out how to get them out. If a prisoner is so dangerous why ishe being released? Is it really going to do any good to let the victim know? It seems to me like a 1 minute phone call from the facility of release would be adequate. I think every prisoner should have a sponsor even tho they have a parole officer. If they are habituals who are dangerous then they should be put to death or kept in. We need the death penalty back by leathal injuction.

The Alaska death penalty when in force was by hanging but not many people remember when they built the hanging scaffold inSeward for the Showalter murder back in the 50's and before the execution, the federal government outlawed capital punishment.

If it's true Arizona cost  $\frac{1}{2}$  as much, ship all the long termers out and let them do the executions if nessessary.

We also need a 3 times and out law, no not in jail time but out of the state forever, that will cure a lot of them. We need a lot of simple things like give the cops back their guns to use.

There is no reason why we can't get rid of  $\frac{1}{2}$  our crime and drugs in 3 months if we had people with guts to push for the right kind of laws.

One last comment, 90% of the State and City workers are making too much, \$20,000 is starting wage for most police officers down south, \$80,000 plus \$10,000 benefits is just too damn much in Anchorage. Construction unions have no business in government.

Inflated wages go back to pipeline days, when the unions said " Give us a \$5.00 an hour raise" and the city fathers said " Why not we got too much money anyway." Now they do not have the backbone to move wages back where they should be and the same thing goes for the state and then it trickled into the private sector.

Bert Shaw  
332 Shaw circle  
anchorage, Alaska 99508  
(907)337-3807

*what I am trying to say is tremendous wage increases of the 80s have never been adjusted down to the real world level.*

Dr. Rauno Makela,  
Finnish expert on  
public drunkenness,  
made this observa-  
tion after visiting  
Bean's Cafe and  
Brother Francis  
Shelter: "Free  
services are danger-  
ous."

# Municipality of Anchorage



P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650  
Telephone: (907) 343-4250

*Rick Mystrom, Mayor*

RECEIVED  
MAR 19 1997

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

March 19, 1997

Ans d.....

RECEIVED  
MAR 19 1997  
Ans d.....

Senator Lyda Green  
State Capitol, Room 125  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Lyda Green;

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 Senate Bill 25 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.

VINE

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: Senator Johnny Ellis

ANCHORAGE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE  
420 L STREET, SUITE 100  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

FAX TRANSMISSION

WARNING: The information contained in this FAX is confidential and/or privileged. This FAX is intended to be reviewed initially by only the named individual. If the reader of this TRANSMISSION PAGE is not the intended recipient or a representative of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination or copying of the FAX or the information contained herein is prohibited. If you have received this FAX in error, please immediately notify the sender by telephone and return this FAX to the sender at the above address.

DATE: March 20, 1997

TO: Senator Lynn Rosen

SENDER: John W. Reichardt, Principal Prosecutor

FAX NO.: 1-907-465-3805

No. of Pages being sent: 2 (includes cover sheet)

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have trouble receiving this transmission, please call

John at 343-4250.





February 5, 1997

Senator Lyda Green, Chair  
State Affairs Committee  
Room 125  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1188

Dear Senator Green:

On behalf of the staff at Tongass Community Counseling Center I am requesting that you support Senate Bill 25 and Senate Bill 26 to fund an automated victim notification system called Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) within the Department of Corrections. Tongass Community Counseling Center works with the perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault. Our primary focus in this line of work is victim safety and perpetrator accountability. We endorse VINE because it empowers the victim. It gives victims access to information when they choose rather than relying on someone in the criminal justice to remember to notify them. I encourage you to pass this bill to provide a better service to the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Thank you for your consideration in this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Crawford".

Bridget Crawford  
Executive Director

cc: Senator Johnny Ellis

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

**Business Manager**

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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Steve Kawara, Member  
Juneau  
Pres. Capitol City Chapter

Scott Chafin, Member  
Wrangell  
Pres. Wrangell Chapter

Leroy Mestas, Member  
Ketchikan  
Pres. First City Chapter

James See, Member  
Craig  
Pres. Prince of Wales Chapter

Senator Johnny Ellis  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (MS 3100)  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Ellis,

On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association, I would like to thank you for introducing Senate Bills 25 and 26 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

Municipality  
of  
Anchorage



P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650  
Telephone: (907) 343-4250

*Rick Mystrom, Mayor*

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

March 19, 1997

Senator Lyda Green  
State Capitol, Room 125  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Lyda Green;

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 Senate Bill 25 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: Senator Johnny Ellis

# Victims for Justice

March 1997

Page 8

Victims for Justice

## "Safe Neighborhood" Crime Initiatives

By Pearlene Hernandez-Villa  
UAA Social Work Practicum Student  
doing her internship with VFJ

### BILL TRACKING STATUS

As of March 12, 1997

#### HB 5

"An Act relating to prosecution of minors for criminal violations; and amending Rule 3(a), Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure."

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KELLY, Ogan

Current Status: (House) Judiciary Status  
Date: 1/13/97 then Finance.

As of January 1997, House Bill 5 has not had its first committee hearing. HB 5 is not expected to move during this session. Sponsors are putting their focus on HB 6 AND HB 16 in the juvenile crime area. Both HB 6 and HB 16 opens up confidentiality of juvenile crime offenders, a key component for victims of crime.

#### HB 6

"An Act amending laws relating to the disclosure of information relating to certain minors."

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KELLY, Theriault, Vezey, Ogan, Dyson,  
Phillips, Ryan

Current Status: (House) Finance Status  
Date: 2/21/97

As of February 21, 1997, House Finance has heard House Bill 6 three times. HB 6 will be heard by House for the fourth time on March 20, 1997. HB 6 has been in Health Education and Social Service (HES) and Judiciary committee and passed out of committee.

#### HB 7

CSHB 7 Judiciary

"An Act authorizing establishment of community dispute resolution centers to foster the resolution of disputes between juvenile offenders and their victims, and providing immunity from civil suits for youth courts and for members of the boards of directors, employees, volunteers, and members of youth courts."

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
PORTER, Green, Croft, Rokeberg, James,  
Kubina, Bunde, Kempfen, Berkowitz, Ogan  
SENATOR(S) Wilken

Current Status: (Senate) Judiciary Status  
Date: 2/17/97 then Finance

House Bill 7 is in Senate Judiciary, it has

passed out of the House and is in Senate Judiciary Committee at this time.

House votes:

YEAS: 34 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 6 ABSENT: 0

#### HB 9

CSHB 9 (Finance) AM

"Victims Right to be Present at Trial."

"An Act relating to the rights of crime victims and victims of juvenile offenses; relating to the collection by victims of restitution from prisoners; relating to the definition of incapacitated for sexual offenses; creating the crime of interfering with a report of a crime involving domestic violence; relating to mental examinations of victims in criminal prosecutions; relating to the safety of victims, other persons, and the community in setting bail or conditions of release; relating to access to certain records of the Violent Crimes Compensation Board; amending Rule 6, Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rules 404 and 615, Alaska Rules of Evidence, and Rule 3, Alaska Delinquency Rules; and providing for an effective date."

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
PORTER, Green, Croft, Kubina, Kempfen

Current Status: (S) Judiciary Status  
Date: 3/10/97 then Finance.

House Bill 9 has passed out of House and is in Senate Judiciary since March 10, 1997.

House votes

Passed on reconsideration YES 31 NAYS 6  
EXCUSED 2 ABSENT 1

**URGENT UPDATE - We have just received word Senator Robin Taylor is holding up HB 9. PLEASE CALL the legislative office at 258-8111 and send a public opinion message to Senator Taylor urging him to support HB 9. Crime victims' constitutional rights are in jeopardy!**

#### HCR 4

Relating to records generated and maintained by the Department of Health and Social Services.

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE(S) KELLY,  
Phillips, Dyson, Ryan, Barnes

Current Status: (House) Finance Status Date:  
2/21/97

House Concurrent Resolution 4 is in House Finance since February 21, 1997. House Finance is going to hear in committee on March

20, 1997.

#### SB 25 HB 47

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

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

Senate Bill 25 is still waiting to be heard in Senate State Affairs Committee since January 13, 1997, and it has not had a hearing committee as of yet.

House Bill 47 has been in House State Affairs since January 13, 1997, and it has not had a committee hearing as of yet.

SB 25 Sponsor(s): SENATOR ELLIS, Donley  
HB 47 Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE  
KEMPLEN

#### SB 26 and HB 48

"An Act making a special appropriation for an automated victim notification system; and providing for an effective date."

The sum of \$250,000 shall be appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Corrections for an automated victim notification system for fiscal years 1997 and 1998.

Senate Bill 26 has been in Senate State Affairs since January 13, 1997. It has not had a committee hearing as of yet.

House Bill 48 has been in House State Affairs since January 13, 1997, and it has not had a committee hearing as of yet.

Sponsor(s): SENATOR ELLIS, Donley

Both SB 25 and HB 47 need victims who would be willing to testify or submit written testimony regarding their experience with not being notified when their attacker was released. If you are interested in testifying or providing written testimony please contact:

Senator Lyda Green, Senate State Affairs,  
State Capitol, Rm 105, Juneau, AK 99801-  
1182 (800)565-3743

Representative Jeannette James, House State  
Affairs, Rm 102, Juneau, AK 99801-1182.

would ultimately provide more jobs and income evenly across the board. By the way, I am a conservative Republican.

— Dennis Adamson  
Anchorage

### Cuts to Film Office costly

I own and operate one of Alaska's major stock photography agencies which represents 58 photographers. For the past seven years we have provided numerous award-winning photos for the state Film Office's advertising campaigns (five billboards, several location handbooks, direct mail pieces and many ads in movie trade magazines). The Film Office has been a great client over the years.

If the proposed budget cuts go through, it will have a lasting and negative effect on many small businesses and one of Alaska's largest industries — tourism. Last year it cost the state of Alaska \$261,000 to operate the Film Office and it generated an income of nearly \$3 million. Can we afford not to take advantage of this free advertising that promotes Alaska?

The Film Office has a proven record that it is a prime investment, generating income for Alaskans and also for the state of Alaska. With the proposed budget cuts, we lose and the state of Alaska loses.

— Ken Graham, owner  
Ken Graham Agency  
Anchorage

### Drug testing violates privacy

The willingness of people to permit themselves to be degraded through arbitrary employment drug testing is appalling. Indiscriminate drug testing violates people's privacy and requires them to prove their "innocence" even though there is no reason to believe that their job performance is being impaired by drug use or anything else. Admirably, the Anchorage police and firefighters have the self-respect to oppose such testing.

Drug testing is ostensibly done to promote job safety and performance. But drug tests do not measure job performance; they generally only test for metabolites, which are what is left over in the body after it uses up a drug. Except with respect to alcohol, drug tests generally don't even determine whether a

person presently has a particular drug in the body. A person could be under the influence of an intoxicating drug at the time of a drug test and yet have the test result be negative.

The only rational way to promote job performance and safety is through performance testing. Such tests are even used for astronauts in the space program. With them, an employer can determine whether an employee is functioning safely or impaired by sickness, fatigue, injury, emotional distress or intoxication.

Drug testing is too limited and unreliable to be used to promote job performance and public safety. The invasion of privacy involved such testing should be considered to be unacceptable. We should support all efforts to eliminate workplace drug testing and, if some kind of testing is desirable and necessary, replace it with performance tests!

— Alex Vasauskas  
Palmer

### Victims need notification

For the tens of thousands of victims of domestic violence in Alaska, there is no system in place to let them know when their perpetrator is released from jail. Often the first time a victim knows that their assailant has been released is when he shows up at their door.

Perpetrators who were jailed for beating their spouse may use their children as pawns in order to "get back" at the victim. If the perpetrator is the biological father of a victim's child, he may take the child from school, or day care without the other parent's knowledge, threatening to harm or kidnap the child.

If victims knew that their perpetrator was being released from jail, they could get a restraining order and notify their child's school or day care about the potentially dangerous situation.

Every week, our agency hears stories about how victims, who are supposed to be protected by the law, are betrayed by a system that lacks follow-through.

Sen. Johnny Ellis and Rep. Allen Kemplen have introduced a bill that could change all this. Senate Bill 25 and the companion bill, House Bill 47, would allow the Department of Corrections to set up a system to notify vic-

tims whenever a perpetrator's status changed. If an inmate is released, transferred, posts bail or escapes, registered victims would be notified through an automated system within minutes.

The system, called Victim Information and Notification Everyday, gives victims time to take life-saving steps. VINE is being used in Kentucky, New Jersey, Texas, California, Michigan, Georgia and Florida — helping victims and their children stay out of harm's way. Please call your legislator or write a letter in support for SB 25 and HB 47. The successful passage of this bill may mean the difference between life and death for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

— Angelica Rosales  
domestic violence supervising counselor  
Alaska Women's Resource Center

### HMOs ripping off Medicare

Medicare rip-off! I recently received a newspaper clipping from a Southern California newspaper concerning a merger of two HMOs. I am a little familiar with the FHP HMO since my foster mother was enrolled until a few weeks ago. The clipping is too long to quote entirely, but here are a few highlights that bother me.

Top bosses would qualify for huge payouts after HMO merger. A handful of senior executives at FHP International Corp. stands to get huge going-away paydays ... At the top of the list is FHP chief executive Wescott W. Price III who will receive a \$1.5 million golden handshake if he walks away, as expected. Price's contract calls for him to get three times his annual \$500,000 base salary if he loses his job because of a "change in control" ... Price also owns nearly 400,000 shares of FHP's common stock. He'll receive \$7 million in cash for those shares and an equal amount of PacificCare stock.

FHP Chairman Jack R. Anderson will get the biggest payday, turning in his common and preferred FHP stock for \$53.7 million in cash and an equal amount of PacificCare stock. And Richard M. Burdige, an FHP director, retired Cigna Corp., executive and former president of the American Stock Exchange, will get \$15.3 million in cash and an equal amount of PacificCare shares for his FHP stock.

alive, i.e., the state of Alaska vs. Venette.

We Natives don't read in the newspapers nor do we see on television anything about what is really happening to us, though I know; and the "nouveau riche PFD Alaskans" are in denial about their role in all of this, while we "breathlessly" await an Alaska vs. Venette decision for the next 20 years or so — at the rate we've been dying, please, Natives want to live! We are in constant peril from the state. We are not "merely" caretakers of the land. We Natives have kept our Alaska under our intrinsic watch for three ice ages or so — wasn't it always beautiful and clean here?

My advice to you, to whom this may apply — everyone — make sure those lands you left in disgust are cleaned up and go home. On your way out clean up Alaska!

— Evelyn Hash  
Gakona

### This alternative school works

With the March 28 lottery date for Anchorage School District's alternative school programs approaching, I would like to praise a program that is a success in every sense of the word — the Government Hill Spanish Immersion Program. Alternative schools are often criticized for being elitist, unfair or divisive. I think it's important to recognize that they can work and be inclusive — even in school-within-a-school settings such as our own.

The recent Government Hill World's Fair is an example. With the help and support of our sponsors — First National Bank of Anchorage, Taste Freez, Tesoro 7-Eleven and National Bank of Alaska, to name a few — we transformed the school into an international festival. Our many minority families participated. Korean women wore flowing hanbok dresses, an Alaska Native puppet theater group entertained, and Latino parents cooked tostados and fried plantains. We shared and explored each other's cultures throughout the day.

By celebrating and understanding our differences, we discover that we are not so different after all.

Government Hill is proof that alternative programs work. Not only do they promote educational excellence, but, when done right, they bring people together.

— Kathryn Gerlek  
Anchorage

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 25

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Corrections  
 Title: Authorizing Department of Corrections to provide BRU: Administration and Support  
Automated Victim Notification & Prisoner Information System Component: Data and Word Processing  
 Sponsor: Senator Ellis  
 Requester: Senate State Affairs COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 698

**Expenditures/Revenues**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

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

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

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

**POSITIONS**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

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

If passed, this legislation would authorize the Department of Corrections to put in place an automated victim notification system. This computerized system would interface with the department's present Offender-Based State Corrections Information System (OBSCIS), and would automatically notify victims by telephone of a change in status of an offender. Victim notification would be done without charge, but the system also would permit victims and the public to make their own inquiries of offenders' status by telephone at any time; a small fee would be charged for each independent inquiry.

To implement this automated system the Department of Corrections would put out an RFP for equipment, software, and installation. Funding for the system's startup cost is addressed in an accompanying appropriation bill (SB 26). Until specific proposals are received from vendors, it is not possible to determine what the ongoing operating costs would be, and to what degree the system might be self-supporting from fees generated by public inquiries.

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

Phone: 465-3307  
 Date: 4/14/97  
 Date: 4-17-97

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**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR SB25/VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

To: Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Brenda Wieffering, Executive Director  
Women's Resource & Crisis Center  
325 S. Spruce St.  
Kenai, AK 99611  
Phone: 283-9479 Fax: 283-5844

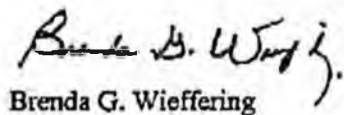
We fully support implementing a telephone victim notification system (VINE) through the Department of Corrections. Such a system will strengthen the state's compliance with the recently passed victims rights constitutional amendment.

A VINE system will offer *timely* crucial information for victims to use in safety planning when their perpetrators are about to be released from custody and carry out threats to harm them again.

Please enhance victim safety by supporting SB25. Lives may literally depend on it.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Brenda G. Wieffering

I am testifying in support of the implementation of an automated victim notification system.

It is apparent to me that the legislature recognizes the importance and severity of our state's domestic violence and sexual assault problems. On behalf the victims of these crimes, I want to thank you for the support you have thus far given.

Victim notification is a critical piece of our state's plan to keep victims safe. It is the experience of agencies having the responsibility of notifying victims of a change in status of an offender and the victims themselves that the responsible agencies have largely been unable to timely notify victims of these changes. As a consequence, many victims' well-being and lives are endangered.

I don't know how to put a price tag on people's lives. I do know that Alaska women are killed because of domestic violence and sexual assault every year -- at a rate 1.5 times the national average. Statistics tell us that more than 10% of Alaskan women are abused by a partner each year, many of whom will require medical attention.

I believe that an automated victim notification system will allow us to save victims from further harm and will save lives. I respectfully ask you to support Senate Bills 25 and 26.

*Sandy Samaniego*  
Sandy Samaniego  
Executive Director  
Women In Crisis-Counseling &  
Assistance  
717 Ninth Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
452-2293