

SB

108

SFIN

FILE

SB 108

was referred to the
Senate Finance
Committee

Hearing(s) were held

The bill did not move
from Committee



SENATOR JERRY WARD

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SPONSOR STATEMENT SB 108 "PAROLEE PAY PROGRAM"

SB 108 requires the Department of Corrections to charge inmates under their supervision on probation or parole. In FY 97, adult probation and parole cost the state \$8.53 million. This legislation calls for each inmate on probation or parole to pay three dollars and thirty cents (\$3.30) per day to defer the cost of their supervision. With over 4600 inmates on probation or parole this legislation could generate over \$5.5 million dollars per year. The same program with juveniles on probation we would add an additional 1300 payees, generating \$1.5 million dollars per year, for a total of over \$7 million dollars.

This bill would allow for the garnishment of permanent fund dividend checks as a method of collecting probation and parole fees. The \$3.30 per day fee is roughly \$100 per month or approximately 45 minutes per day at minimum wage to reimburse the state for criminal supervision. For those who are able to pay and chose not to, this legislation calls for revocation of parole. Alaska's correctional professionals are not and should not be "collectors". That is why this legislation calls for a third party collection of probation and parole fees.

With correctional costs skyrocketing in recent years, the notion that offenders should contribute to their own supervision has gained widespread political and public support. Twenty three other states now charge fees for probation and parole. One example is Texas, which funds over half of its \$90.6 million dollar probation and parole program through fees. While the numbers of states charging fees is on the increase, the idea is not new. In 1846, Michigan enacted the first correctional fee law in the country. Unlike financial obligations imposed to inflict punishment (e.g., fines, restoration of victim's losses or other civil obligations), correctional fees are imposed to generate revenues for correctional programs.

The citizens of Alaska can not be asked to "foot the bill" for criminals while things like medical care for the elderly and education go under-funded. It is time that criminals literally pay their "debt to society".

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Chairman, Senate Transportation Committee • Chairman, Senate State Affairs Committee
Senator_Jerry_Ward@legis.state.ak.us

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SIGN-IN

SB 108-PROBATION AND PAROLE FEES

NAME: ROBERT BUTTONE Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: YOUTH CORRECTIONS - HSS Phone: 465-3228

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

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Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions