

HB

232

<TARGET><BILL>HB 232</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
232</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA28</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:
State Capitol Building
Room 500
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2186
Phone (907) 465-3004
Toll Free: (877) 465-3004



Interim:
1292 Sadler Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 452-1088

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON DISTRICT 3

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chairman, and House State Affairs' Committee Members
House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Steve Thompson

Date: March 6, 2014

Re: HB 232- "Disability Designation on ID License". Answers to Questions from House State Affairs' Committee Members from hearing on Tuesday, March 4, 2014.

Questions/Answers from House State Affairs Committee:

1. What would medical professional include as a disability? Can you provide some examples?

This is a voluntary designation on a driver's license and in order to receive the disability designation the applicant must apply for the designation through the DMV and also be seen by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, advanced nurse practitioner or licensed psychologist. As such, the medical professional ultimately would be the one to make the determination on whether the applicant (i.e. patient) would qualify for a disability designation. Some examples of disabilities that may qualify for this designation are attached (Appendix A).

2. Would there be a database so an emergency/law enforcement responder would know what disability a person may have?

No database would be kept on disabilities a person may have as this may violate the Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/summary/privacvsummary.pdf>

3. Have other states done this? How many? How has it worked?

To date it appears that 2 other states have a driver's license with a disability designation:

The State of Illinois under (15 ILCS 335/) Illinois Identification Card Act, issues an "Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card" which "may be used for identification purposes in any lawful situation by the person to whom it was issued." (See Appendix B)

The State of Virginia just passed a driver's license and special card designations law on 3/04/14. It will become effective January 1, 2015.

At this time there is no documentation on how well this system is working in other states.

4. Since Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Ed wouldn't be the training consult, what entity would be?

Currently, we are in discussion with several entities to find a best fit.

5. Are there any other employees within the departments involved that wouldn't need this training due to minimal interaction with the public, outside of court system?

It is unknown at this time whether there are other employees within departments that would not need this training due to minimal interaction with the public.

6. Is there any way to have another type of identification so that the state wouldn't have to become involved?

Another type of identification has not been brought to our attention that would accomplish the goals set forth in this bill.

7. Can training be provided through departments rather than through legislation?

Many departments already provide trainings and have agreed that if needed, adding a segment about hidden disabilities would not be onerous or with any fiscal impact to the state. (See Fiscal Notes: Alaska Court System [HB232-ACS-TRC-03-03-14], Division of Public Health [HB232-DHSS-EP-02-28-14], Division of Senior and Disabilities Services HB232-DHSS-GCDSE-02-28-14], Department of Public Safety [HB232-DPS-TA-02-28-14], Department of Public Safety [HB232-DPS-TEB-02-28-14].

8. What training is already being done for hidden disabilities?

Trainings already in progress are expounded upon in the analysis sections of the fiscal notes identified above.

9. How will a police officer know what type of disability a person has from the designation on the ID card?

Police officers have been trained to note abnormalities in behaviors. Trainings are already taking place that address disabilities and the ways to approach these types of situations. However, further discussion will ensue to determine whether trainings specifically address hidden disabilities.

If you have further questions, please direct them to my aide, Lynette Bergh. She can be reached at 465-4941 or lynette.bergh@akleg.gov

Appendix A

SOME disabilities considered hidden disabilities:

ADHD
Epilepsy
Major depression
Anxiety disorders
Fibromyalgia
Metabolic syndrome
Allergies
Food allergies
Migraines
Arachnoiditis
Fructose malabsorption
Multiple Sclerosis
Asperger Syndrome
Hereditary Fructose Intolerance
Multiple Chemical Sensitivity
Asthma
Herhidrosis
Narcolepsy
Autism
Hollycemia
Personality disorders
Bipolar disorder
Inflammatory bowel disease
Primary immunodeficiency
Brain injuries
Interstitial cystitis
Psychiatric disabilities
Irritable Bowel Syndrome
Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy
Chronic fatigue syndrome
Lactose Intolerance
Repetitive stress injuries
Chronic pain
Lupus
Rheumatoid arthritis
Circadian rhythm sleep disorders
Lyme Disease
Schizophrenia
Scieroderma
Coeliac Disease
Ulcerative Colitis
Sjögren's syndrome
Crohns disease
Temporomandibular joint disorder
Depression
Transverse Myelitis
Diabetes

(15 ILCS 335/) Illinois Identification Card Act

(b) The Secretary of State shall issue a special Illinois Identification Card, which shall be known as an Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card, to any natural person who is a resident of the State of Illinois, who is a person with a disability as defined in Section 4A of this Act, who applies for such card, or renewal thereof. No Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card shall be issued to any person who holds a valid foreign state identification card, license, or permit unless the person first surrenders to the Secretary of State the valid foreign state identification card, license, or permit. The Secretary of State shall charge no fee to issue such card. The card shall be prepared and supplied by the Secretary of State, and shall include a photograph and signature or mark of the applicant, a designation indicating that the card is an Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card, and shall include a comprehensible designation of the type and classification of the applicant's disability as set out in Section 4A of this Act. However, the Secretary of State may provide by rule for the issuance of Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Cards without photographs if the applicant has a bona fide religious objection to being photographed or to the display of his or her photograph. If the applicant so requests, the card shall include a description of the applicant's disability and any information about the applicant's disability or medical history which the Secretary determines would be helpful to the applicant in securing emergency medical care. If a mark is used in lieu of a signature, such mark shall be affixed to the card in the presence of two witnesses who attest to the authenticity of the mark. The Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card may be used for identification purposes in any lawful situation by the person to whom it was issued.

The Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card may be used as adequate documentation of disability in lieu of a physician's determination of disability, a determination of disability from a physician assistant who has been delegated the authority to make this determination by his or her supervising physician, a determination of disability from an advanced practice nurse who has a written collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician that authorizes the advanced practice nurse to make this determination, or any other documentation of disability whenever any State law requires that a disabled person provide such documentation of disability, however an Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card shall not qualify the cardholder to participate in any program or to receive any benefit which is not available to all persons with like disabilities. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, an Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card, or evidence that the Secretary of State has issued an Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card, shall not be used by any person other than the person named on such card to prove that the person named on such card is a disabled person or for any other purpose unless the card is used for the benefit of the person named on such card, and the person named on such card consents to such use at the time the card is so used.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 232
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB232-DOA-DMV-02-28-2014
Title: DISABILITY DESIGNATION ON ID/LICENSE
Sponsor: THOMPSON
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Administration
Appropriation: Motor Vehicles
Allocation: Motor Vehicles
OMB Component Number: 2348

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services	45.8							
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	45.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1005 GF/Prgm	45.8							
Total	45.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues								
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? **Yes**
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? **01/01/16**

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: <u>Amy Erickson, Director</u>	Phone: <u>(907)269-5574</u>
Division: <u>Motor Vehicles</u>	Date: <u>02/28/2014 08:00 AM</u>
Approved By: <u>Curtis Thayer, Commissioner</u>	Date: <u>02/28/14</u>
Agency: <u>Department of Administration</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 232

Analysis

This bill will require DMV to allow a person to voluntarily add a disability designator to an Alaska driver's license or identification card. DMV must also provide a method to remove the designator upon request. Proof of the disability (cognitive, mental, neurological, or physical) must be provided at the time of the request and must be issued by a person licensed as a medical doctor or physician assistant under AS 08.64, an advanced nurse practitioner under AS 08.68, or a licensed psychologist under AS 08.86.

Expenditures:

The database for the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will require programming to add the disability designator and to allow employees to choose between current and future driver's license designators.

Estimated programming and testing hours: 320

Cost per hour: \$143

Total programming cost: $320 \times \$143 = \$45,760.00$

Revenue:

DMV may charge a fee of \$5 for the issuance of an Alaska driver's license or identification card with a disability designator. DMV may also charge a \$5 fee to remove the designator from the Alaska driver's license or identification card. Because this is a voluntary program DMV is unable to estimate any future revenues.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 232
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB232-DPS-TEB-02-28-14
Title: DISABILITY DESIGNATION ON ID/LICENSE
Sponsor: THOMPSON
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Public Safety
Appropriation: Fire and Life Safety
Allocation: Training and Education Bureau
OMB Component Number: 2884

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2015	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: Kelly Nicoello, State Fire Marshal	Phone: (907)269-5491
Division: Fire and Life Safety	Date: 02/28/2014 03:00 PM
Approved By: Gary Folger, Commissioner	Date: 02/28/14
Agency: Department of Public Safety	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 232

Analysis

This bill requires that the state fire-service training program include training in the recognition of a person with a disability, appropriate interaction with a person with a disability, and resources available to persons with disabilities and persons interacting with persons with disabilities. In providing this training, the agency offering the training program is required to consult with the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

The Division of Fire and Life Safety's Training and Education Bureau (TEB) provides fire training and public fire education services to the Alaskan fire service and all sectors of the Alaskan public.

It is anticipated that the TEB can incorporate this training as part of any appropriate course TEB is contracted to provide and could meet the requirements of this bill without a fiscal impact .

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 232
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB232-DPS-TA-02-28-14
Title: DISABILITY DESIGNATION ON ID/LICENSE
Sponsor: THOMPSON
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Public Safety
Appropriation: Statewide Support
Allocation: Training Academy
OMB Component Number: 524

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2015	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues								
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: Lt. Rodney Dial
Division: Alaska State Troopers
Approved By: Gary Folger, Commissioner
Agency: Department of Public Safety

Phone: (907)254-1284
Date: 02/28/2014 04:30 PM
Date: 02/28/14

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 232

Analysis

This bill requires that police training programs provide training that instructs peace officers in the recognition of a person with a disability, appropriate interaction with a person with a disability, and resources available to persons with disabilities and peace officers interacting with persons with disabilities. In providing this training, the agency offering the police training program is required to consult with the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) provides police training at its Training Academy in Sitka, AK. Persons attending the academy for police training include troopers, municipal police officers, and Village Public Safety Officers. This fiscal note assumes the training required under this bill would be provided at the DPS Training Academy.

A review of similar training provided by agencies in other states suggests DPS could meet the requirements of this bill without a fiscal impact. However, a fiscal impact could result if additional requirements are imposed on the training that make it more extensive than this fiscal note anticipates, such as the duration and/or delivery method.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 232
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB232-DOC-OC-02-28-14
Title: DISABILITY DESIGNATION ON ID/LICENSE
Sponsor: THOMPSON
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Corrections
Appropriation: Administration and Support
Allocation: Office of the Commissioner
OMB Component Number: 694

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues								
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

This is the original version of the bill.

Prepared By: <u>April Wilkerson, Director</u>	Phone: <u>(907)465-3460</u>
Division: <u>Administrative Services - Department of Corrections</u>	Date: <u>02/28/2014 03:00 PM</u>
Approved By: <u>Leslie Houston, Deputy Commissioner</u>	Date: <u>02/28/14</u>
Agency: <u>Department of Corrections</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 232

Analysis

This bill allows a person to designate a disability on their state ID or driver's license. It also requires emergency personnel, police, VPSO, peace officer and judicial officer training programs to provide training on recognizing and appropriately interacting with people who have disabilities.

The Corrections Training Academy currently provides training on recognizing and appropriately interacting with people who have disabilities which meets the requirements outlined in this legislation. Therefore, no additional funding is needed to bring the Department into compliance with the legislation.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 232
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB232- ACS-TRC-03-03-14
Title: DISABILITY DESIGNATION ON ID/LICENSE
Sponsor: THOMPSON
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Alaska Court System
Appropriation: Alaska Court System
Allocation: Trial Courts
OMB Component Number: 768

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2015	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues

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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Initial version

Prepared By: <u>Nancy Meade, General Counsel</u>	Phone: <u>(907)463-4736</u>
Division: <u>Alaska Court System</u>	Date: <u>03/03/2014 12:00 PM</u>
Approved By: <u>Nancy Meade for Christine Johnson, Administrative Director</u>	Date: <u>03/03/14</u>
Agency: <u>Alaska Court System</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB232

Analysis

House Bill 232 would require the Administrative Director of the Alaska Court System to provide to judicial officers and employees training in recognizing persons with disabilities, appropriate interaction with a person with a disability, and resources available to persons with disabilities. The court system anticipates that it can provide sufficient training to meet the requirements of the bill through its existing judicial training and clerk training programs, as appropriate.

The court anticipates that it can do this with no fiscal impact, and therefore submits this zero fiscal note.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 232
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB232-DHSS-GCDSE-02-28-14
Title: DISABILITY DESIGNATION ON ID/LICENSE
Sponsor: THOMPSON
Requester: House State Affairs Committee

Department: Department of Health and Social Services
Appropriation: Senior and Disabilities Services
Allocation: Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education
OMB Component Number: 2023

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2015	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues								

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By:	Duane Mayes, Director	Phone:	(907)269-2083
Division:	Senior and Disabilities Services	Date:	01/22/2014 12:00 AM
Approved By:	Sarah Woods, Deputy Director, Finance & Management Services	Date:	02/28/14
Agency:	Health & Social Services		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB232

Analysis

Along with providing for the voluntary designation of disability on Alaska driver licenses and identification cards, the legislation would also require that training programs for peace officers, fire-service employees, emergency medical personnel, and Alaska Court System employees provide instruction on identifying and appropriately interacting with people with disabilities. The agencies offering these training programs are required to consult with the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

The consultation requirement for training programs would not require extra staff or expenses for the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. The Council is aware of several training programs for peace officers and emergency responders around this topic, and has already provided information of these models to law enforcement entities and connected them with appropriate trainers.

This bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 232
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB232-DHSS-EP-02-28-14
Title: DISABILITY DESIGNATION ON ID/LICENSE
Sponsor: THOMPSON
Requester: House State Affairs Committee

Department: Department of Health and Social Services
Appropriation: Public Health
Allocation: Emergency Programs
OMB Component Number: 2877

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues

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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: Kerre L. Shelton, Director	Phone: (907)269-2042
Division: Public Health	Date: 02/28/2014 12:00 AM
Approved By: Sarah Woods, Deputy Director, Finance & Management Services	Date: 02/28/14
Agency: Health & Social Services	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB232

Analysis

Along with providing for the voluntary designation of disability on Alaska driver licenses and identification cards, the legislation would also require that training programs for peace officers, fire-service employees, emergency medical personnel, and Alaska Court System employees provide instruction on identifying and appropriately interacting with people with disabilities. These training programs are required to consult with the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

The department is responsible for overseeing certification of emergency medical personnel. The current training for emergency medical service providers includes recognizing a person with a disability, and information on appropriate interactions. The disabilities resource list is kept updated by local and regional Emergency Medical Services systems.

This bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the Division of Public Health.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:

State Capitol Building
Room 500
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2186
Phone (907) 465-3004
Toll Free: (877) 465-3004



Interim:

1292 Sadler Way, Ste. 308
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 452-1088
Toll Free: (877) 465-3004

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON DISTRICT 3

Sponsor Statement House Bill 232

“An Act relating to a voluntary disability designation on a state identification card and a driver’s license; and relating to training in recognizing disabilities.”

The purpose of this HB 232 is to implement a voluntary statewide identification system where a discrete marker would be placed on an Alaska Driver’s license or an Alaska ID card. This program would benefit both individuals with a hidden disability and officials with whom they interact. The marker would identify the individual as having a hidden disability, allowing a person in authority to better understand and more appropriately interact with the individual.

This bill also has a required training component. Training would be provided to Peace Officers, Court Officials and Emergency First responders instructing these professionals on how to appropriately interact with individuals diagnosed with hidden disabilities.

Many times law enforcement and first responders have to make difficult decisions on short notice and rely on tried and tested protocols, their own common sense, and a system of beliefs about human nature and behavior. When people with hidden disabilities interact with law enforcement and first responders, elements of their disabilities brush against these protocols and beliefs and may result in serious misunderstanding or even tragedy.

If a person’s disability is not recognized during an encounter, it may affect the outcome of that encounter. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that police provide “reasonable accommodations” to people with disabilities, but without the ability to confirm that a person has a disability those accommodations may not be provided.

In criminal justice situations, people with hidden disabilities may not fully understand the seriousness or consequences of their actions or fully understand their rights. People with cognitive or intellectual disabilities inclusive of veterans with PTSD or traumatic brain injuries are more likely to be arrested, convicted, sentenced to prison, and victimized in prison (Santamour, 1986). Once in the criminal justice system, these individuals tend to serve longer sentences due to an inability to understand or adapt to prison structures.

The goal of the program is to improve communication between justice professionals, law enforcement professionals, emergency responders and other agencies who may interact with people who have hidden disabilities, whether these disabled individuals encounter the “systems” as victims, witnesses, or alleged perpetrators.

Please join me in supporting HB 232.

E-mail Representative_Steve_Thompson@akleg.gov

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:

State Capitol Building
Room 500
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2186
Phone (907) 465-3004
Toll Free: (877) 465-3004



Interim:

1292 Sadler Way, Ste. 308
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 452-1088
Toll Free: (877) 465-3004

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON DISTRICT 3

Sectional Summary House Bill 232

"An Act relating to a voluntary disability designation on a state identification card and a driver's license; and relating to training in recognizing disabilities."

Section 1. Adds a new section to AS 18.08 That directs an emergency medical service system to provide its employees training in recognizing hidden disabilities.

Section 2. Adds a new section to AS 18.65.310 Providing that a person may voluntarily designate on their State of Alaska Identification Card that they have a disability.

Section 3. Adds a new section to AS 18.65 - **Training in Recognizing Disabilities**. Providing the framework for establishing the disability training program.

Section 4. AS 18.70.020 is amended instructing the Department of Public Safety to provide a training program to recognize and interact with a person with a hidden disability.

Section 5. AS 22.20 is amended by adding a new section - Instructing the Alaska Court System to provide training in recognizing and interacting with people with hidden disabilities.

Section 6. AS 28.15.111 is amended by adding a new subsection, providing that a person may voluntarily designate on their Alaska State Driver's License a disability designation and the fee that the department can charge.

A Few Stories

1)

I do not know if this will help but here goes. One day I was taking some individuals out on Day Habilitation when I was the Manager at a local Assisted Living Home/Group Home here in the valley when an individual who has mental retardation, fetal alcohol syndrome, bipolar disorder, and intermittent explosive disorder decides to run off in the Wal-Mart Parking lot. He has had multiple arrests for assault, me and a fellow staff member notified the police because we couldn't keep up with him with the other individuals we had with us. We loaded up in the vehicle we were in and went to look for him. At the same time we found him, the police did too. I communicated with the police upon them arriving and they handled the situation perfectly. At first they were on the defense because of the individuals swearing, and aggressive gestures but once I explained his disabilities they calmed and we talked him down together. However, if I had not been there I imagine he would have been arrested and taken to jail because he most likely would have assaulted the police officer.

This could be an example of why educating law enforcement officials could benefit in situations such as this. Once they knew that he wasn't on drugs or looking for a fight they calmed, he calmed and the problem was corrected.

In another story, in the same Group Home I worked with an individual who was a convicted sex offender. He was scheduled to attend weekly court hearings to check on his status and to make sure he was doing well. He has mild mental retardation. Most days at court were great with him leaving happy that he was one step closer to being off parole and on with his life. However, one day he found out that due to a setback (believe it was pornography(violation of his parole)) he had another 6 months added onto his parole. After being dismissed he ran away from us in the parking lot and said he was leaving. After we caught up to him and he began calming down and being talked to he came to realize this is just another obstacle to overcome.

This could be another example of why educating criminal justice officials is important because of situations such as this. If they had taken the time to work through the reasons why and how come he was getting additional time, plus working through his frustration this situation may have never occurred. It could have been much worse, he could have ran into traffic, or hitch hiked, or worse.

Thanks,

Joshua Bicchinella, ILA
Independent Living Advocate

2)

In the more than 10 years I have spent in association with the head and your support group here at Access Alaska, I have seen numerous occasions where people with invisible disabilities due to traumatic brain injuries, strokes and/or brain tumors were thought to be impaired due to the consumption of an intoxicant. After being pulled over by an officer, with flashing lights and quite possibly a flashlight shone in their face and they were definitely impaired. Many people with seizure disorders can have a seizure induced by a strobe light, fluorescent lights and some computer screens can also be a problem. And once a person is in the legal system there is a good chance they will have a difficult time getting appropriate representation due to their inability to communicate what their disability is. Probably my favorite metaphor is comparing the brain to a laptop that has been dropped and still looks the same on the outside, the laptop does not think that there's anything wrong with it and gives everyone that tries to use it an error message. One member of the head injury support group here in Anchorage (a stroke survivor) reported on his Fourth of July trip to Seward, AK that the local police thought he was drunk because of his balance issues. The officers refused to accept his doctor's note as proof of his disability even after he passed a breathalyzer test. They took him to the hospital for a blood test and put him in jail while they waited two days for the results and the judge to come to town. Another member reports having drunk one beer six hours before being stopped by a state trooper and had largely the same experience.

A call came in from a local church pastor that was advocating for a young man with a cognitive impairment that was his family's sole breadwinner. He had been pulled over for weaving in his vehicle, and could not walk a straight line but had passed a breathalyzer test. His car was impounded and he was taken to the clinic for a blood test which he passed. And he was left to bear the cost of paying impound & towing charges in order to get his vehicle.

It becomes even more tragic in cases of child custody and domestic violence as the authorities can become a third-party abuser or a tool of a disenfranchised spouse or domestic partner. I am involved in representing a support group member in this type of case and I am having difficulty in finding the correct attorney for appropriate representation.

On a system's advocacy positive note: the local Anchorage Police Department has implemented The Crisis Intervention Team which was founded in Memphis in 1997 through the efforts of NAMI.

I have been invited to participate in graduation Day presentation on neurological impairments/brain disorders that may present as substance abuse. I was initially invited to present at the state of Alaska Department of Behavioral Services and have presented at five of the last six graduating classes. The information was well received by the paramedics and graduating officers of the 40 hour class. <http://www.youralaskalink.com/news/Crisis-Intervention-Team-Graduation--130899263.html>

This is one of the most important components of developing a long-lasting peer support network: developing empathy in seeing that injustice done to one of us with a disability is being done to all of us. We are much stronger together than alone. Frank Box –IL Advocate/ HISG Facilitator

3)

We know of a young man with a cognitive disability who has a permanent conviction on his record, in court view, that has interfered with and prevented his entry to employment. We currently have him employed, but the conviction is there for all future applications he may make. He is not longer in my program, and he's not likely to come to us for help. He accepts the kind of stuff the world dishes out very quietly.

His alcoholic father asked that he accept custodial responsibility so the dad could get bailed out of jail. Of course the son agreed. There was no advocacy or prevention of court assigning him the responsibility: I did not know about the issue until after the conviction.

Conviction occurred, predictably. Dad got out of jail, drank. No way that an adoring son who had lived his life away from dad in foster care would or could confront the father. No skills for that. If he had, what chance would he have of influencing active alcoholic dad? So dad got, predictably when drinking, into a fight and was arrested. Son was arrested and convicted, summarily, of neglect of custodial duties. I think he was 19 at the time.

I have written, called and approached all the legal entities I can think of, including public defenders, convicting magistrate, clerk of court, and an attorney that had previously worked for Alaska Legal Services. It's a conviction that is WRONG as the day is long. But . . . oh, too bad. None of us can do anything about it now. So let's all go home to our comfortable homes and families. We won't be contacted when future employers eliminate this young man as a candidate. We won't even have to think about the damage it will continue to do in his life.

Somehow, we managed to keep him from being arrested to serve the time required by the conviction. Warrants stopped being issued. I don't even know how that happened, but I was scared to death for this kid to have to go into FCC at his tender age. I think we need a few more 'mistakes' in the legal system to clear that record of conviction

4)

Last year, one of our deaf consumers was at a friend's house drinking on post (where she lives). She went to her car and started it since it was January and cold outside and got in the back to sleep. A "friend" called the MP on her. Apparently, MP tried knocking on the back window, but since MS is deaf, she didn't hear them. They also opened the door and apparently directed her to get out, but again, since she is deaf and did not hear them, she did not wake up, did not move and was unable to follow their instructions. So for her, the only recollection she has is being grabbed out of the back of the vehicle. She stated it was very dark and she had no idea it was MP. She began swinging her arms because she thought she was being attacked.

She said that in court, they lowered the charges because they looked at the video of what happened, but she was still charged with a DUI and Assault 4. I have no idea if she was given accommodations for her disability in court, or if she really knows what charges she was being given. She can read lips, but that does not mean she shouldn't have had a translator available. They suspended her license, I think gave her suspended jail time and a smart start for her car for (6?) months.

I've also gone to court with her for a protective order. I can tell you that they have accommodated her by using the relay system to do English to text translation, however, a mess up in translation last time we were in court, almost caused her to say "OK" to dropped the protection order.

5)

Focusing on the hidden disability

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome will affect every aspect of their lives for as long as they live

Posted: Sunday, March 09, 2003

By: CHRISTINE SCHMID

JUNEAU EMPIRE © 2003

When Margaret and Lester Hunt's five adopted adolescent boys moved into their home in 2001, four of them chose to take new names to symbolize their new lives.

One no longer wanted to share an identity with his biological father, so he changed his name to Jake. Another wanted to assume the name of his adoptive father and grandfather and became Lester Allen III.

"They wanted to leave their past behind," said Margaret Hunt. What the boys couldn't leave behind is the fact their mothers drank alcohol while the boys were in the womb. All five boys are diagnosed with some degree of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome - a disease that will affect every aspect of their lives for as long as they live.

"I know that when they grow up they're going to see what their friends have - apartments and cars - and ask why they can't have it too," said Hunt. "I just have to tell them that when their mom was pregnant, she drank alcohol, and it damaged their brain."

Problems associated with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

- learning disabilities
- problems with memory
- behavioral problems
- poor judgment
- brain damage
- heart and kidney problems
- mental retardation

Source: Health and Social Services office on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

FAS is caused by one thing only: a mother drinking alcohol while pregnant. Unlike those of crack or cocaine, the effects of alcohol on a developing fetus last a lifetime.

When the Hunts adopted the boys - from two separate families - they did not know of their new sons' brain damage.

"We were told the boys were not diagnosed with FAS," Margaret Hunt said. But because of her background in social work, she was able to diagnose the boys unofficially only a few weeks after they arrived in her home. "When I got the boys I started taking them to all their checkups with various doctors," she said. The doctors found a cotton swab in one ear and a bug in another in one of her sons. The cotton swab had been there for two years, doctors estimated.

"The FAS pulls into that," Hunt said. "He didn't have the coping skills to say his ear hurt or feels funny. He just didn't know how to say it."

Other signs of FAS for Hunt were when her sons said they would do something - what they had been told to do - then did something completely different. They also took an abnormally long time to do simple daily tasks such as eating breakfast.

"There's just a lot of little things," Hunt said. "These kids, they look normal."

Hunt's diagnosis was confirmed when she talked to the families of her sons, who confirmed the likelihood that the mothers drank during pregnancy. A full psychiatric evaluation in Anchorage made the diagnosis official.

Hunt's adopted sons face a situation typical of many who suffer with FAS: They look and act much like normal boys their age in social situations, Hunt said.

"Anywhere we go I have people tell me, 'Your boys are so well-behaved,'" said Hunt. Though some of them struggle in school, all of the Hunt boys have areas such as art or sports or math at which they excel.

The normal appearance and average intelligence of many who suffer from FAS is part of the syndrome's elusiveness, said Dan Dubovsky of the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's FAS Center for Excellence. He was in Juneau last week speaking at two conferences on substance abuse and FAS, one sponsored by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the other by the city-run Juneau Recovery Hospital.

"(People who suffer from FAS) sound OK if you're just talking to them," Dubovsky said. "Often they have normal IQs, and the majority don't have mental retardation."

Because of the normal appearance of people with FAS, many people think the contrary or disruptive behavior of FAS patients must be purposeful, Dubovsky said.

"When really, the bottom line in any setting - home, school, job, treatment, corrections - the bottom line is they just don't get it," he said.

People with FAS suffer from low adaptive functioning - the ability to apply knowledge appropriately in a given situation.

"It's the difference between learning a skill and adapting to use that skill," Dubovsky said.

Dubovsky illustrates this difference with stories of his son Bill, an FAS patient he adopted when Bill was 6. Bill was hit by a car and killed last fall at the age of 28, but Dubovsky's 22 years with his son gave him an intimate knowledge of FAS.

When Bill bought his first car, Dubovsky warned him not to get a speeding ticket, because if he did, Bill wouldn't be able to afford the increase in insurance rates and would lose the car.

"So when Bill was pulled over for a speeding ticket, and the officer went back to his car to write up the ticket, what did Bill do? He remembered that I said he would lose the car if he got a ticket, so he just pulled away," Dubovsky said. Bill then was arrested for fleeing from an officer.

Though fetal alcohol syndrome first was identified as a clinical condition in 1973, it is by no means "new," said Dubovsky. References to the birth defects associated with mothers who drink alcohol date as far back as the Bible, when an angel told Samson's mother not to imbibe wine or strong drink during Samson's gestation.

FAS is considered one of three Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, FASD, which is a newer term for the broad range of disorders that can result from consuming alcohol during pregnancy.

Knowledge of FAS and FASD is very limited, Dubovsky said.

"We do know that it is 100 percent preventable," he said. The disease is caused by the consumption of alcohol during pregnancy, and the child of any woman who drinks during pregnancy is at risk.

"I don't like talking about high-risk populations," he said. "My approach is that until somebody can show me that there is a whole population that is at risk, we need to talk about high-risk behavior."

The fact that the effects of alcohol on a fetus last a lifetime "doesn't mean we can't do anything to help," Dubovsky said. The medical establishment is just beginning to study treatment options for FAS.

With proper treatment, including one-on-one monitoring and sometimes medicines such as anti-depressants and mild stimulants such as Ritalin, people with FAS can lead lives that highlight their strengths.

"They tend to be very likable, very friendly," Dubovsky said. "They tend to really have a strong desire to be helpful. There are a number of them who have many strengths. What we need to do is build on those strengths."

As for the Hunts, they have no regrets about the children they adopted, Margaret Hunt said.

"These guys just ... they sparkle," she said. "There is so much love and care in them, and they want you to be happy. They want to see you smile."



Hints for Communicating with people with cognitive disabilities

Try to keep your surroundings quiet and free from distractions.

Make eye contact before you speak and say the person's name often.

Use simple language, repeat points, speak slowly and clearly.

Clearly identify yourself, explain why you are there.

Give one direction, or ask one question at a time.

Have person repeat directions/instructions in their own words.

Ask open-ended rather than "yes/no" type questions.

Be patient for response.

Avoid abstract questions on time/sequences/reasons for behavior.

Observe behavior as nonverbal communication.

Treat an adult as an adult, but be sensitive to their special needs.

Partners in Justice 1-800-662-8706

This project is supported by The Arc of North Carolina and the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities and the funds it receives through P.L. 106-402, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000.



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Traits Often Seen

May not communicate at age level:

- Limited vocabulary
- Difficulty understanding/answering questions
- Mimic answers/responses
- Unable to communicate events clearly in his/her own words

May not understand consequences of situations:

- Unaware of seriousness of situations
- Easily led or persuaded by others
- Naive eagerness to confess or please

May not behave appropriately:

- Unaware of social norms and appropriate social behavior
- Acts younger than actual age, may display childlike behavior
- Displays low frustration tolerance and/or poor impulse control

May have difficulty performing tasks:

- Inability to read, write, tell time, change money
- Difficulty staying focused and easily distracted
- Awkward/poor motor coordination

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February 10, 2014

The Honorable Steve Thompson
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Rm. 500
120 4th Street, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Thompson:

On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), I am writing in regard to House Bill 232, "An Act relating to a voluntary disability designation on a state identification card and a driver's license; and relating to training in recognizing disabilities."

The APOA Board of Directors recently reviewed this proposed legislation and unanimously opposes this bill in its current form. We are sensitive to our state citizens' disabilities. We do not believe legislating the lesson plan for training programs is necessary. We do not agree with the fiscal note which legislated training would create.

Please contact the APOA office in Anchorage at 277-0515, if there is anything our organization can do to assist you in your work for our state.

Sincerely,

Brad Johnson
State President

Dear Representative Thompson,

I strongly support HB232, the Training and Disability Identification Bill. The reason I would like to see this passed and become law is to provide a much needed avenue of choice for those who experience odd looks, suspicion or discrimination for a disability their community does not understand.

I cannot imagine having to explain the way I walk to any stranger due to a disability I was born with or a current medical condition. Eyes on me from others when I park in handicap parking while appearing 100% healthy would allow me the dignity to park amidst the judgment I feel staring at me.

I'd like to see our community be educated as a whole as well as the professionals who will be given the correct information and education of how to interact appropriately with those who experience a hidden disability.

The heart of this legislation is good in my opinion. It serves to bring integrity in communication and will produce more positive outcomes in the future on both sides of this issue. It brings dignity to situations that could go awry quickly.

I fully support this bill and thank you so sincerely for being willing to become a part of change. I cannot wait to hear the positive stories as a result of this legislation!

You have impressed us with your diligence to move it so quickly to legislation. It spoke volumes to me as a community member that you deemed this as so important. I appreciate all you have done and will continue to do to help this become a reality for our community.

Sincerely,

Cindy Turnbough
1900 Arctic Loon Circle
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Donna Nelson
PO Box 82292
Fairbanks, AK 99708
Dnelson976@gmail.com

February 25, 2014
RE: HB 232

Dear Representative Thompson,

I strongly support **HB232, the Training and Disability ID Bill**. I support this piece of legislation because the primary goal of this bill is targeted education. This act will ensure that justice, law enforcement and emergency responder professionals will be informed as to what a disability might look like and what barriers a person with a disability might encounter. These professionals will become better equipped to interact with people who experience either apparent or non-apparent disabilities regardless of whether people with disabilities encounter the "system" as victims, witnesses, or alleged perpetrators.

I also support the ID component of the bill because it will enable people who experience a disability to voluntarily disclose pertinent information about their condition(s) in a discreet manner on an Alaska Driver's License or ID card. This discreet marker will assist a professional to recognize that the person in front of them has a disability even though it may not be initially apparent during an interaction. I have heard numerous stories from consumers in my role as an Independent Living Advocate regarding misunderstandings and even mistreatment at the hands of law enforcement due to ignorance of disability and its effects.

For instance, a person with no prior law enforcement contact and no record who happens to experience expressive aphasia (a neurological condition making speech production difficult, especially under stress) was involved in an accident. When the person could not produce vocalizations on command they were yelled at by the responding officer, degraded for perceived willful disobedience and ultimately charged with fault despite not having been the driver at fault. The person attempted to convey the need for an Epi-pen for asthma which was in the dash and was not allowed to retrieve it. They wound up in the emergency room with a severe asthma attack. If the officer and dispatch had been in possession of information about this person's disability, they undoubtedly would have reacted differently and this person would not have been medically compromised and in serious danger. They could have also avoided discrimination, humiliation and the law suit ultimately filed by the individual due to the gross mishandling of the situation.

Another example involves a Native Alaskan who experiences traumatic brain injury and associated physical disability. This individual staggers when walking due to hemiparesis or paralysis on one side of the body. The person was observed leaving a store (without the usual cane because they wanted to appear more independent) and was reported to police as being intoxicated. When officers responded, the person was resting their head on the dash of the car while texting in their lap. Officers surrounded the car, demanded the person get out and proceeded to test for inebriation. There was no evidence of intoxication or substance use so there

Donna Nelson
PO Box 82292
Fairbanks, AK 99708
Dnelson976@gmail.com

were no arrests or charges, yet the person was not allowed to drive away. This person forced to walk away without evidence of wrong doing has a physical/ mobility impairment and a traumatic brain injury. To police and onlookers the individual was judged as "just another drunk Native."

These are just a few of the stories which I hear regularly and/ or have witnessed while in the community. No disability should ever be used or allowed as an excuse for bad behavior. However, citizens deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. When quick judgments are made without proper information and insight, questionable situations can arise. These occurrences put individuals at risk, violate their rights and expose public agencies such as emergency, fire and police to embarrassing and potentially expensive litigation situations.

Thank you for sponsoring HB232. Mandatory training to recognize and effectively interact with individuals with disability will go a long way toward preventing such misunderstandings and to protect the right of people with disabilities to be treated fairly and appropriately. HB232 will help improve the lives of Alaskans with both apparent and non-apparent disabilities.

Sincerely,

Donna Nelson
(Disability Advocate, Caring family member and
friend of individuals experiencing disability)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Nelson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



February 19, 2014

Dear Representative Thompson,

WallBusters is an advocacy group for people with disabilities. Our mission is to educate and advocate for the removal of barriers to independence for people with disabilities. Education is important because people who do not experience a disability may not understand what barriers exist and how those barriers may prevent some people from living independent and successful lives. We also advocate for the rights of people with a disability because it is our social responsibility to ensure that a person with a disability is able to access the same social benefits as any other member of our community.

We strongly support HB232, the Training and Disability ID Bill. We support this piece of legislation because the primary goal of this bill is targeted education. This act will ensure that justice professionals, law enforcement professionals and emergency responders will be informed of what a disability looks like and what barriers a person with a disability may encounter. These professionals will become better equipped to interact with people who experience either apparent or non-apparent disabilities regardless of whether people with disabilities encounter the “systems” as victims, witnesses, or alleged perpetrators.

We also support the ID component of the bill because it will enable people who experience a disability to voluntarily disclose their disability in a discreet manner on an Alaska Driver’s License or ID card. This discreet marker will assist a professional to recognize that the person in front of them has a disability even though it may not be initially apparent to the professional.

Thank you for sponsoring HB232. This bill will ensure that professionals in Alaska are trained to respectfully and appropriately interact with people who experience a disability. This legislation will go a long way to avoid misunderstandings and protect the right of people with disabilities be treated fairly and appropriately. HB232 will help improve the lives of Alaskans with both apparent and non-apparent disabilities.

Sincerely,

Art Delaune
WallBusters

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:
State Capitol Building
Room 500
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2186
Phone (907) 465-3004
Toll Free: (877) 465-3004



Interim:
1292 Sadler Way
Room 323
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 452-1088

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON DISTRICT 3

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Steve Thompson 

Date: February 19, 2014

Re: Hearing Request for HB 232 "An Act relating to a voluntary disability designation on a state identification card and a driver's license; and relating to training in recognizing disabilities."

Please consider this memorandum as a request for HB 232 to be heard in the House State Affairs Committee. Accompanying this memo are the following documents:

- HB 232 – Sponsor Statement
- HB 232 – Bill version N
- HB 232 – Sectional Summary
- HB 232 – Letter of Support, Wall Busters, 2/19/14
- HB 232 – Letter of Opposition, APOC, 2/10/14
- HB 232 – Support, Personal Stories
- HB 232 – Support, Hints for Communicating with People with Cognitive Disabilities

Should you have questions, concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Jane Pierson at 465-6841.