

**SB**

**180**

<TARGET><BILL>SB 180</BILL><SUBJECT>SB  
180</SUBJECT><COMM>SJUD28</COMM></TARGET>

# Alaska State Legislature Senate Rules Committee

*Session:*  
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**Rules Committee:**  
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**Committee on Committees**  
Rules Committee  
Resources Committee  
Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Council  
TAPS Throughput Decline  
World Trade and Tourism

Senator Lesil McGuire, Chairman

## SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

### SB 180

#### Section 1

Establishes that the Act may be known by the short title "Nancy's Law."

#### Section 2

Amends AS 18.65.150 *Composition of council*, by increasing the number of public members appointed to the Alaska Police Standards Council (council) and stipulates that employees or former of employees of an agency regulated by the council may not serve as public members of the council.

#### Section 3

Amends AS 18.65.180 *Holding another office*, to agree with the changes made in Section 2 so that in some cases a person may be disqualified from serving as a public member of the council at the same time as holding a public office or employment within an agency regulated by the council.

#### Section 4

Amends AS 18.65.220 *Powers*, to add to the councils powers the power to determine when a person has violated AS 18.65.130 – 18.65.290 and conduct investigations under AS 18.65.222

#### Section 5

(1) Adds AS 18.65.222 *Complaints*, establishing a procedure for the Alaska Police Standards Council to process a complaint made by any person regarding an act or omission of a police officer, probation officer, parole officer, correctional officer, or municipal correctional officer; and adds (2) AS 18.65.223 *Information about contacting the council*, requires that the member agency that employed the officer at the time of the events alleged, upon receiving a complaint under the procedures proposed in this bill section, provides certain information to the complainant.

#### Section 6

Amends AS 18.65.240(c) *Standards*, by allowing the council to suspend a certificate, in addition to the ability to deny or a revoke a certificate, for a police officer who does not meet the qualifications the council has established for the employment of police officers.

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## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### SB 180

***An Act relating to the composition, powers, and duties of the Alaska Police Standards Council; and requiring agencies that are regulated by the Alaska Police Standards Council to provide certain information about the council to persons who file a complaint about the conduct of a police officer, probation officer, parole officer, municipal correctional officer, or correctional officer.***

With my introduction of SB 180, it is my hope that no other Alaskan is put in a position where they feel victimized and without recourse when a possible improper use or abuse of authority by an officer occurs within our law enforcement system. "Nancy's Law" was inspired by the heart-wrenching story of a young Alaskan named Nancy who found herself in just that type of unfortunate and potentially life altering situation.

In order to ensure the public has a voice and proper advocacy in the process, this bill will increase the number of public members of the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) and stipulates that those members may not have previously worked for a member agency. In addition, this measure establishes a procedure for the council to process complaints and will require member agencies to inform complainants of their rights and protections through the APSC. Finally, this measure will also give the Alaska Police Standards Council the ability to suspend a certificate when an officer has clearly done something that requires action, but doesn't necessarily warrant revocation.

Law enforcement is a very challenging and necessary duty. We are blessed to have a phenomenal majority of hard working officers in our state and I commend their service. But the public trust and confidence in these agencies is equally as necessary and important for these agencies to accomplish their missions. SB 180 provides additional safeguards for the public while helping to ensure bad actions and actors are subject to added scrutiny, including potential suspension and/or removal, by a stronger APSC with greater public representation.