

**HB**

**93**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 93</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
93</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA29</COMM></TARGET>



**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 93(STA)**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Offered:**  
**Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE TILTON**

**A BILL**  
**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to the duties of probation officers; and relating to conditions of**  
2 **parole."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 33.05.040 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 33.05.040. Duties of probation officers.** A probation officer shall

6 (1) furnish to each probationer under the supervision of the officer a  
7 written statement of the conditions of probation and shall instruct the probationer  
8 regarding the same;

9 (2) keep informed concerning the conduct and condition of each  
10 probationer under the supervision of the officer and shall report on the probationer to  
11 the court placing that [SUCH] person on probation;

12 (3) use all suitable methods, not inconsistent with the conditions  
13 imposed by the court, to aid probationers and to bring about improvements in their  
14 conduct and condition;

1 (4) keep records of the probation work, keep accurate and complete  
 2 accounts of all money collected from persons under the supervision of the officer, give  
 3 receipts for money collected and make at least monthly returns of it, make the reports  
 4 to the court and the commissioner required by them, and perform other duties the court  
 5 may direct;

6 (5) perform [SUCH] duties with respect to persons on parole as the  
 7 commissioner shall request, and in that [SUCH] service shall be termed a parole  
 8 officer;

9 (6) accommodate the diligent efforts of each probationer to secure  
 10 and maintain steady employment when prescribing the times at which a  
 11 probationer shall report;

12 (7) permit each probationer to travel in the state to make diligent  
 13 efforts to secure and maintain steady employment if the travel is not inconsistent  
 14 with other terms and conditions of probation.

15 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 33.16.150(a) is amended to read:

16 (a) As a condition of parole, a prisoner released on special medical,  
 17 discretionary, or mandatory parole

18 (1) shall obey all state, federal, or local laws or ordinances, and any  
 19 court orders applicable to the parolee;

20 (2) shall make diligent efforts to maintain steady employment or meet  
 21 family obligations;

22 (3) shall, if involved in education, counseling, training, or treatment,  
 23 continue in the program unless granted permission from the parole officer assigned to  
 24 the parolee to discontinue the program;

25 (4) shall report

26 (A) upon release to the parole officer assigned to the parolee;

27 (B) at other times, and in the manner, prescribed by the board  
 28 or the parole officer assigned to the parolee that accommodate the diligent  
 29 efforts of the parolee to secure and maintain steady employment;

30 (5) shall reside at a stated place and not change that residence without  
 31 notifying, and receiving permission from, the parole officer assigned to the parolee;

1 (6) shall remain within stated geographic limits unless written  
2 permission to depart from the stated limits is granted the parolee;

3 (7) may not use, possess, handle, purchase, give, distribute, or  
4 administer a controlled substance as defined in AS 11.71.900 or under federal law or a  
5 drug for which a prescription is required under state or federal law without a  
6 prescription from a licensed medical professional to the parolee;

7 (8) may not possess or control a firearm; in this paragraph, "firearm"  
8 has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900;

9 (9) may not enter into an agreement or other arrangement with a law  
10 enforcement agency or officer that will place the parolee in the position of violating a  
11 law or parole condition without the prior approval of the board;

12 (10) may not contact or correspond with anyone confined in a  
13 correctional facility of any type serving any term of imprisonment or a felon without  
14 the permission of the parole officer assigned to a parolee;

15 (11) shall agree to waive extradition from any state or territory of the  
16 United States and to not contest efforts to return the parolee to the state;

17 (12) shall provide a blood sample, an oral sample, or both, when  
18 requested by a health care professional acting on behalf of the state to provide the  
19 sample or samples, or an oral sample when requested by a juvenile or adult  
20 correctional, probation, or parole officer, or a peace officer, if the prisoner is being  
21 released after a conviction of an offense requiring the state to collect the sample or  
22 samples for the deoxyribonucleic acid identification system under AS 44.41.035;

23 (13) from a conviction for a sex offense shall submit to regular  
24 periodic polygraph examinations; in this paragraph, "sex offense" has the meaning  
25 given in AS 12.63.100.

26 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 33.16.150(b) is amended to read:

27 (b) The board may require as a condition of special medical, discretionary, or  
28 mandatory parole, or a member of the board acting for the board under (e) of this  
29 section may require as a condition of mandatory parole, that a prisoner released on  
30 parole

31 (1) not possess or control a defensive weapon, a deadly weapon other

1 than an ordinary pocket knife with a blade three inches or less in length, or  
2 ammunition for a firearm, or reside in a residence where there is a firearm capable of  
3 being concealed on one's person or a prohibited weapon; in this paragraph, "deadly  
4 weapon," "defensive weapon," and "firearm" have the meanings given in  
5 AS 11.81.900, and "prohibited weapon" has the meaning given in AS 11.61.200;

6 (2) refrain from possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages;

7 (3) submit to reasonable searches and seizures by a parole officer, or a  
8 peace officer acting under the direction of a parole officer;

9 (4) submit to appropriate medical, mental health, or controlled  
10 substance or alcohol examination, treatment, or counseling;

11 (5) submit to periodic examinations designed to detect the use of  
12 alcohol or controlled substances; the periodic examinations may include testing under  
13 the program established under AS 33.16.060(c);

14 (6) make restitution ordered by the court according to a schedule  
15 established by the board;

16 (7) refrain from opening, maintaining, or using a checking account or  
17 charge account;

18 (8) refrain from entering into a contract other than a prenuptial contract  
19 or a marriage contract;

20 (9) refrain from operating a motor vehicle;

21 (10) refrain from entering an establishment where alcoholic beverages  
22 are served, sold, or otherwise dispensed;

23 (11) refrain from participating in any other activity or conduct  
24 reasonably related to the parolee's offense, prior record, behavior or prior behavior,  
25 current circumstances, or perceived risk to the community, or from associating with  
26 any other person that the board determines is reasonably likely to diminish the  
27 rehabilitative goals of parole, or that may endanger the public; in the case of special  
28 medical parole, for a prisoner diagnosed with a communicable disease, comply with  
29 conditions set by the board designed to prevent the transmission of the disease;

30 **(12) refrain from traveling in the state to make diligent efforts to**  
31 **secure or maintain steady employment only if the travel violates other conditions**

1

of parole.

**HB 93 Probation and Parole: Work, Travel  
Accom. (Tilton)**

- **Rescind Moving HB 93 Version ~~H~~ from Committee bringing the bill back before the committee**
- **Rescind Rep Keller Conceptual Amendment #2**
- **Adopt New CS Version H (this includes Rep Gruenberg's Amendment #1)**
- **Move HB 93 Version H from Committee**

*Keller moved to Rescind Committee action  
Keller Moved to adopt #  
States objects for discussion  
& then removes objection*

29-LS0404\H  
Gardner/Martin  
2/18/15

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 93(STA)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

*Passed*

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE TILTON

**A BILL**

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2 parole."

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7 written statement of the conditions of probation and shall instruct the probationer  
8 regarding the same;

9 (2) keep informed concerning the conduct and condition of each  
10 probationer under the supervision of the officer and shall report on the probationer to  
11 the court placing that [SUCH] person on probation;

12 (3) use all suitable methods, not inconsistent with the conditions  
13 imposed by the court, to aid probationers and to bring about improvements in their  
14 conduct and condition;

1 (4) keep records of the probation work, keep accurate and complete  
2 accounts of all money collected from persons under the supervision of the officer, give  
3 receipts for money collected and make at least monthly returns of it, make the reports  
4 to the court and the commissioner required by them, and perform other duties the court  
5 may direct;

6 (5) perform [SUCH] duties with respect to persons on parole as the  
7 commissioner shall request, and in that [SUCH] service shall be termed a parole  
8 officer;

9 **(6) accommodate the diligent efforts of each probationer to secure**  
10 **and maintain steady employment when prescribing the times at which a**  
11 **probationer shall report;**

12 **(7) permit each probationer to travel in the state to make diligent**  
13 **efforts to secure and maintain steady employment if the travel is not inconsistent**  
14 **with other terms and conditions of probation.**

15 \* Sec. 2. AS 33.16.150(a) is amended to read:

16 (a) As a condition of parole, a prisoner released on special medical,  
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18 (1) shall obey all state, federal, or local laws or ordinances, and any  
19 court orders applicable to the parolee;

20 (2) shall make diligent efforts to maintain steady employment or meet  
21 family obligations;

22 (3) shall, if involved in education, counseling, training, or treatment,  
23 continue in the program unless granted permission from the parole officer assigned to  
24 the parolee to discontinue the program;

25 (4) shall report

26 (A) upon release to the parole officer assigned to the parolee;

27 (B) at other times, and in the manner, prescribed by the board  
28 or the parole officer assigned to the parolee **that accommodate the diligent**  
29 **efforts of the parolee to secure and maintain steady employment;**

30 (5) shall reside at a stated place and not change that residence without  
31 notifying, and receiving permission from, the parole officer assigned to the parolee;

1 (6) shall remain within stated geographic limits unless written  
2 permission to depart from the stated limits is granted the parolee;

3 (7) may not use, possess, handle, purchase, give, distribute, or  
4 administer a controlled substance as defined in AS 11.71.900 or under federal law or a  
5 drug for which a prescription is required under state or federal law without a  
6 prescription from a licensed medical professional to the parolee;

7 (8) may not possess or control a firearm; in this paragraph, "firearm"  
8 has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900;

9 (9) may not enter into an agreement or other arrangement with a law  
10 enforcement agency or officer that will place the parolee in the position of violating a  
11 law or parole condition without the prior approval of the board;

12 (10) may not contact or correspond with anyone confined in a  
13 correctional facility of any type serving any term of imprisonment or a felon without  
14 the permission of the parole officer assigned to a parolee;

15 (11) shall agree to waive extradition from any state or territory of the  
16 United States and to not contest efforts to return the parolee to the state;

17 (12) shall provide a blood sample, an oral sample, or both, when  
18 requested by a health care professional acting on behalf of the state to provide the  
19 sample or samples, or an oral sample when requested by a juvenile or adult  
20 correctional, probation, or parole officer, or a peace officer, if the prisoner is being  
21 released after a conviction of an offense requiring the state to collect the sample or  
22 samples for the deoxyribonucleic acid identification system under AS 44.41.035;

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25 given in AS 12.63.100.

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27 (b) The board may require as a condition of special medical, discretionary, or  
28 mandatory parole, or a member of the board acting for the board under (e) of this  
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30 parole

31 (1) not possess or control a defensive weapon, a deadly weapon other

1 than an ordinary pocket knife with a blade three inches or less in length, or  
2 ammunition for a firearm, or reside in a residence where there is a firearm capable of  
3 being concealed on one's person or a prohibited weapon; in this paragraph, "deadly  
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5 AS 11.81.900, and "prohibited weapon" has the meaning given in AS 11.61.200;

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16 (7) refrain from opening, maintaining, or using a checking account or  
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18 (8) refrain from entering into a contract other than a prenuptial contract  
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27 rehabilitative goals of parole, or that may endanger the public; in the case of special  
28 medical parole, for a prisoner diagnosed with a communicable disease, comply with  
29 conditions set by the board designed to prevent the transmission of the disease;

30 **(12) refrain from traveling in the state to make diligent efforts to**  
31 **secure or maintain steady employment only if the travel violates other conditions**

1

of parole.

*2 amendments*

*Went back to Public testimony  
Keller Moved Bill*

*Public Testimony Closed  
Keller Moved the Bill  
Gruenberg Objects  
Keller removed*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 93**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE TILTON

Introduced: 1/30/15  
Referred: State Affairs

*3rd Hearing 2/19/15*

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Gruenberg  
Live 28  
pg 2 824  
2-17-15

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14 (6) make restitution ordered by the court according to a schedule  
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16 (7) refrain from opening, maintaining, or using a checking account or  
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18 (8) refrain from entering into a contract other than a prenuptial contract  
19 or a marriage contract;

20 (9) refrain from operating a motor vehicle;

21 (10) refrain from entering an establishment where alcoholic beverages  
22 are served, sold, or otherwise dispensed;

23 (11) refrain from participating in any other activity or conduct  
24 reasonably related to the parolee's offense, prior record, behavior or prior behavior,  
25 current circumstances, or perceived risk to the community, or from associating with  
26 any other person that the board determines is reasonably likely to diminish the  
27 rehabilitative goals of parole, or that may endanger the public; in the case of special  
28 medical parole, for a prisoner diagnosed with a communicable disease, comply with  
29 conditions set by the board designed to prevent the transmission of the disease;

30 (12) only refrain from traveling in the state to make diligent efforts  
31 to secure or maintain steady employment if the travel violates other conditions of

Carrie Beldrea  
Dir parole  
has some  
concerns  
8/29  
A 7/17

Gruber  
8/26  
Amend # 1  
11/17/15

Conceptual  
amendment # 2

29-LS0404\W

1

parole. and approved by Dept of Corrections  
at the discretion of the

Board?

flexibility  
w/out giving  
them veto power

It's odd to do this

Amendment #1 to HB93  
by Bruntz

passed

page 4 l 30 delete "only"

page 4 l 31 insert "only" between "employment"  
and "if"

Conceptual amendment # 2  
page 5 after parole

Keller  
passed

# Representative Cathy Tilton

*Alaska State Legislature – House District 12*



## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### **HB 93: "An Act relating to the duties of probation officers; and relating to conditions of parole."**

House Bill 93 ("HB 93") addresses a recognized societal goal of helping former prisoners attain gainful employment and reestablish themselves as contributing members to society.

HB 93 makes it clear that probation and parole officers shall accommodate the diligent efforts of probationers to secure and maintain employment, by being flexible to probationers' work schedule when prescribing the times when a probationer shall report. It permits probationers to travel in the state to make diligent efforts to secure and maintain employment if the travel is not inconsistent with other terms and conditions of probation.

Additionally, HB 93 provides conforming language that states that the parole board may require as a condition of special medical, discretionary, or mandatory parole, that a prisoner released on parole may only refrain from traveling in the state to make diligent efforts to secure or maintain steady employment if the travel violates other conditions of the court-ordered sentence.

State Capitol Rm. 411  
907.465.2199  
Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov

# Representative Cathy Tilton

*Alaska State Legislature – House District 12*



## **SECTIONAL ANALYSIS**

### **HB 93: "An Act relating to the duties of probation officers; and relating to conditions of parole."**

**Section 1:** AS 33.05.040 is amended to add subsections making it clear that a probation or parole officer shall accommodate the diligent efforts of each probationer to secure and maintain steady employment when prescribing the times at which a probationer shall report; and permit each probationer to travel in the state to make diligent efforts to secure and maintain steady employment if the travel is not inconsistent with other terms and conditions of probation.

**Section 2:** AS 33.16.150(a) is amended to conform to Section 1, AS 33.05.040, adding that a parolee shall report to a parole officer "at other times, and in the manner, prescribed by the board or the parole officer assigned to the parolee that accommodate the diligent efforts of the parolee to secure and maintain steady employment."

**Section 3:** AS 33.16.150(b) is amended to read that the parole board may require as a condition of special medical, discretionary, or mandatory parole, or a member of the board acting for the board under of this section may require as a condition of mandatory parole that a prisoner released on parole "may only refrain from traveling in the state to make diligent efforts to secure or maintain steady employment if the travel violates other conditions of parole."

Other minor changes are grammar updates, changing the word "such" to "that" throughout.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 93  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB093-DOC-PPDO-02-14-15  
Title: PROBATION AND PAROLE: WORK, TRAVEL  
ACCUM.  
Sponsor: TILTON  
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Corrections  
Appropriation: Population Management  
Allocation: Probation and Parole Director's Office  
OMB Component Number: 2684

**Expenditures/Revenues**

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

	FY2016	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2016 Request	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
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>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None							
<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>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

<b>Change in Revenues</b>							
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**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2015) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) 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:**

Prepared By: April Wilkerson  
Division: Administrative Services - Department of Corrections  
Approved By: Remond Henderson, Deputy Commissioner  
Agency: Department of Corrections

Phone: (907)465-3460  
Date: 02/14/2015 12:03 PM  
Date: 02/14/2015

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB93

**Analysis**

This legislation identifies instate traveling criteria and reporting times as it relates to conditions of probation and parole. These conditions are currently considered by the supervising Adult Probation Officers. This legislation will have no fiscal impact on the Department of Corrections operations.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 93  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB093-DOA-PDA-02-13-15  
Title: PROBATION AND PAROLE: WORK, TRAVEL  
          ACCOM.  
Sponsor: TILTON  
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Administration  
Appropriation: Legal and Advocacy Services  
Allocation: Public Defender Agency  
OMB Component Number: 1631

**Expenditures/Revenues**

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

	FY2016 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2016 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
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>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None							
<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>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

<b>Change in Revenues</b>							
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**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2015) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) 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: Quinlan Steiner  
Division: Public Defender Agency  
Approved By: Sheldon Fisher, Commissioner  
Agency: Department of Administration

Phone: (907)334-4414  
Date: 02/13/2015 11:00 AM  
Date: 02/13/15

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 93

**Analysis**

This bill requires probation and parole officers to allow probationers and parolees to travel for the of purpose of the probationer or parolee obtaining or maintaining employment and requires that consideration of work schedules be given when setting reporting times.

The Public Defender Agency does not anticipate a financial impact from this legislation. The agency, therefore, submits a zero fiscal note.



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February 13, 2015

Representative Cathy Tilton  
Alaska State Capitol Room 411  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Tilton:

I am writing to express our organization's support for HB 93, pertaining to the duties of probation officers and conditions of parole.

As you know, Partners for Progress is committed to the goal of assisting former offenders become productive lawful members of the community, thereby protecting the public from repeat crime and reducing the soaring costs of incarceration. We have learned through experience – and this has been confirmed by national research – that, for most people reentering the community from prison, securing and keeping employment is essential to achieving this goal.

The Partners Reentry Center that we operate is now serving about 50 clients a day. We emphasize employment, making that a condition of temporary housing and other assistance. To help reentrants overcome the stigma of their criminal records and fulfill the requirement for employment imposed by ourselves and by the Department of Corrections, we have worked with employers in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley and significantly increased the number of them who are willing to give people a second chance. DOC probation officers have assisted us in this effort.

Since the requirements of HB 93 are conditioned on consistency with other terms of probation, we hope DOC will view the bill as a reflection of their best practices. It is a fact that many who are on probation work at jobs that do not have flexible hours. Often former offenders' means of transportation are quite limited, making it difficult and times-taking to travel to and from required appointments.

Thank you for introducing HB 93. If enacted, we believe it will positively impact the lives of people who are working to become contributing citizens to our state.

Sincerely,

Janet McCabe  
Chair, Partners for Progress  
(907) 272-2119, cell 444-6057  
www.partnersforprogressak.org

# Representative Cathy Tilton

*Alaska State Legislature – House District 12*



**From:** Kyle Brown [<mailto:kyle@discoverydrilling.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 12:29 PM

**To:** Rep. Cathy Tilton

**Cc:** Matt Claman

**Subject:** HB 93

Dear Representative Tilton,

I just looked at HB 93 regarding DOC parole/probation officer responsibilities. I am totally in support of this bill and honestly think much of what DOC (or court mandates?) put former inmates through after release that makes it very difficult for them to work, should be completed during incarceration and be almost a condition of release. That eliminates all transportation and scheduling issues, provides maximum cost efficiency and minimizes unoccupied hours for in jail that can't lead to any good results. I am a private employer that has employed numerous former prisoners over the last 8 years and I'm here to tell you that DOC does not willingly do anything to help facilitate keeping parolees employed. I am currently active in the Anchorage Re-entry Coalition, supposedly tasked by the legislature to reduce recidivism and get former criminals back to work. To the best of my knowledge I am the only person out of some 50 members that is not being paid, by the government or a non-profit agency, to be there. My opinions are not popular but I have many hundreds of painful hours trying to deal with DOC to keep my guys working, so I know the status quo is not working. I just wanted to voice my support for this bill and offer any information or assistance that might be of use to you. I am not politically savvy, so if there is anyone else that I should be contacting in this regard, please let me know. Thanks for your time!

Kyle Brown

State Capitol Rm. 411  
907.465.2199  
[Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov)



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Prisoner Re-entry Task Force

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# ALASKA JUSTICE FORUM

A PUBLICATION OF THE JUSTICE CENTER

Spring 2010

Vol. 27, No. 1

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## Alaska Prisoner Re-entry Task Force

*Teresa White Carns*

**"Alaska Prisoner Re-entry Task Force" by Teresa White Carns. *Alaska Justice Forum* 27(1): 6 (Spring 2010).** The Alaska Prisoner Re-entry Task Force, a subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Working Group, met in April 2010 to establish a work plan, identify major areas of focus, and create strategic work groups to address each area. The Task Force goal is: "Individuals who are incarcerated do not return to custody." To achieve this, the Task Force will look for community partners and identify evidence-based strategies to improve the re-entry process.

The Alaska Prisoner Re-entry Task Force, a subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Working Group, met in April 2010 to establish a work plan, identify major areas of focus, and create strategic work groups to address each area. The Task Force goal is: "Individuals who are incarcerated do not return to custody." To achieve this, the Task Force will look for community partners and identify evidence-based strategies to improve the re-entry process. One way to measure progress toward this goal is a reduction in the baseline recidivism rate of 48 percent of adults returned to custody within the first year after their release. Over the next few months, members of the Task Force and subcommittees will use a basic template to develop their own goals and strategies, and will combine their efforts into a five-year strategic plan for implementing successful re-entry for prisoners. The plan should be ready for review by December 2010.

The complexity of the process is indicated by the range of community groups involved, and the variety of subcommittees that the Task Force established. Task Force members include representatives from the Alaska State Troopers, Department of Labor, Alaska Court System, Department of Corrections, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Division of Behavioral Health,

**See also:**

- Criminal Justice Working Group (CJWG)
- Offender reentry

Department of Corrections Chaplaincy Program, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Victims for Justice, Partners for Progress, Nine Star Education and Employment Services, Cook Inlet Tribal Corporation, United Way, Akeela House, the Alaska Native Justice Center, and an ex-offender.

The Task Force subcommittees and their areas of focus are:

- **Results-based accountability assessment team**—create a structure and templates for each of the other groups to follow in developing, recording, and evaluating their work. Results-based accountability techniques are being integrated into the entire project.
- **Web site creation**—create a web site that serves as a reference point for both the members of the Task Force and the work groups, as well as providing information to the public.
- **Data gathering**—compile existing data about criminal justice populations, identify gaps in the data available, and recommend ways to provide the needed information.
- **Health and mental health**—create a baseline that shows current mental health services for offenders, whether incarcerated or not, and identify gaps in services.
- **Housing**—identify the range of existing housing services, describe the gaps, and determine ways to provide affordable housing for those released from incarceration.
- **Employment, workforce development, and education**—look at existing post-incarceration education and employment opportunities, and review ways to improve access to both.
- **Employment restrictions**—(also known as collateral consequences of incarceration) —build on existing work to identify laws that are barriers to housing, employment, and other needs of persons with felony convictions. Consider what changes might be possible, in the context of public safety, and rehabilitation of the offender.
- **State ID for released prisoners**—develop a plan to ensure prisoners have a state ID (or drivers' license) in order to qualify for benefits, work, and other daily needs.
- **Mentoring/faith-based assistance**—determine how to improve this type of support for people newly released from incarceration.
- **Misdemeanor prisoner population**—review the special difficulties for prisoners incarcerated for misdemeanors who will have little or no support network or supervision after release.

One example of a strategy that could be used to meet the Task Force goals relates to the Housing Subcommittee. Safe, sober housing has been shown to be a significant factor in reducing recidivism. A recent UAA Master's graduate in public policy, Stephanie Lawley, has developed a grid showing available housing for low income people and identifying length of stay possible, genders housed, access to public transportation, number of rooms, and requirements for residents of each facility. This grid could be the basis for a web-based application available to all agencies working to house newly-released prisoners.

*Teri Carns is with the Alaska Judicial Council in Anchorage, with responsibility for research projects, report writing, and aspects of judicial selection and retention.*

# Representative Cathy Tilton

*Alaska State Legislature – House District 12*



## HB 93 OTHER INFORMATION

Fiscal note: None as of 02.20.2015

No request for specialized information services equipment

Names and contacts for possible witnesses:

Quinlan Steiner, public defender, [quinlan.steiner@alaska.gov](mailto:quinlan.steiner@alaska.gov), 907-317-4746, Anchorage

Kyle Brown, business owner, [kyle@discoverydrilling.com](mailto:kyle@discoverydrilling.com) office: 344-6431, cell: 360-2911, Anchorage

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