

SB

31

<TARGET><BILL>SB 31</BILL><SUBJECT>SB
31</SUBJECT><COMM>SEDC29</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

JUNEAU

STATE CAPITOL BLDG. RM 417

JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182

PHONE (907) 465-4930

ALASKA~~SENATE~~DEMS.COM/GARDNER



ANCHORAGE

716 W. 4TH AVENUE

ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

PHONE (907) 269-0174

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SENATOR BERTA GARDNER

SENATE DISTRICT I

Sponsor Statement

SB31 - "An Act relating to sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention efforts in public schools."

Child abuse in Alaska is a chronic and devastating problem. In 2013, Office of Children's Services statistics show that there were 2,296 allegations of child sexual abuse with 1,817 unique victims, over 40% of whom were Alaska Native children. 884 of these cases were sent to law enforcement and OCS went on to assess 809 allegations. The trend of high rates of abuse in Alaska must stop and prevention efforts are critical to that effort. We must break the cycle of abuse and give Alaskans the tools they need to protect themselves and help others.

This bill requires school districts to develop age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in grades kindergarten through 12. The bill is part of a national effort to enact "Erin's Law" in all fifty states (www.erinslaw.org). Erin Merryn is a survivor of childhood sexual abuse and made it her mission to have legislation passed across the country giving children the tools to protect themselves from abuse and school staff and administrators the ability to recognize the signs of abuse.

"Had someone taught me about safe touch, unsafe touch, safe secrets, and unsafe secrets, I would have known it was safe to tell. Instead I lived in my horror in silence. I am now on a mission to give children across this country the voice I never had as a child," said Merryn. To date, versions of Erin's Law have been enacted in eight states; twenty-five states, including Alaska, have a version of Erin's Law proposed this session.

This bill requires Alaska public schools to create age-appropriate curricula while allowing the flexibility to provide the training most beneficial to their community. Curricula should include warning signs of sexual abuse, referral and resource information, counseling and educational support, methods for increasing awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children, and actions a child may take to prevent and report sexual abuse or sexual assault. In many cases, by the time anyone other than the perpetrator and the victim know of the abuse, it is too late to stop it.

Current numbers show that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18. While teachers and administrators within the state say some education is happening to lower these numbers, they agree that we need to do more.

I ask for your support in this measure.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR BERTA GARDNER
SENATE DISTRICT I

Sectional Analysis

SB31 - *"An Act relating to sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention efforts in public schools."*

Section 1:

Amends the Alaska Statutes by adding a new section for Erin's Law.

Section 2:

Section (a) requires all Alaska school districts to adopt and implement a mandatory sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention training program for students K through 12 and employees.

Section (b) lists the requirements for the policy, training, and notice to parents, students, and staff.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 31
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB031-EED-SSA-2-6-15
Title: SEXUAL ABUSE/ASSAULT PREVENTION
PROGRAMS
Sponsor: GARDNER
Requester: Senate Education Committee

Department: Department of Education and Early Development
Appropriation: Teaching and Learning Support
Allocation: Student and School Achievement
OMB Component Number: 2796

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
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2016	FY 2016					
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

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 (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? **Yes**
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? **12/31/15**

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: <u>Dr. Susan McCauley</u>	Phone: <u>(907)465-2857</u>
Division: <u>Director, Teaching and Learning Support</u>	Date: <u>02/06/2015 08:39 AM</u>
Approved By: <u>Mike Hanley</u>	Date: <u>02/06/15</u>
Agency: <u>Commissioner, Education & Early Development</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB31

Analysis

Sec. 2 amends AS 14.30 by adding a new section, AS 14.30.355, that requires the governing body (school board) of each school district to adopt and implement a policy that mandates a training program for employees and students (K-12) related to sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention. Costs will reside with the school districts.

Erin Merryn, Sexual Abuse Survivor And Founder Of Erin's Law, Shares Joyful News

When Erin Merryn was a child, she was sexually abused by two people she knew and trusted, including a family member. Erin endured the abuse from age 6 to 8 and from 11 to 13 and felt the long-lasting effects of her guilt, shame and loss of innocence. "It changed me from a strong, resilient, confident child to a very angry, hate-filled, self-destructive child, teenager and young adult," she says.

She even considered suicide. But Erin says her life changed when she saw an "Oprah Show" guest named Truddi Chase tell her own horrific story of sexual abuse. In 2010, Erin appeared on the "Oprah Show" herself and shared how the late Truddi had given her the confidence to confront one of her abusers.

"That family member, I ended up corresponding for seven months in letters with him until I got [an] apology," Erin said back then. "It was this letter that finally allowed me to come out of darkness and decide I wanted to be a face and voice on this silent epidemic."

Determined to make a difference, Erin ended up pushing the Illinois legislature to enact Erin's Law, a law that demands sexual abuse education for children. "We teach kids tornado drills, fire drills, bus drills," Erin told Oprah. "We teach them nothing on sexual abuse."

Today, Erin's Law isn't just in the state of Illinois -- it's been passed in seven other states and, as Erin reveals in an update for "Oprah: Where Are They Now?", it's also being introduced in 19 more.

"The law could have saved me as a child and it's the reason why I'm so passionate about it," she says.

Erin's efforts have since earned her a spot as one of Glamour's Women of the Year in 2012 and allowed her to meet President Obama in 2013, to whom she said, "My name is Erin. I've gotten a law passed that requires sexual abuse prevention in schools and my mission is all 50 states. This is not the last time you and I are going to meet."

Forgiving her abusers has also allowed Erin to trust men again on a personal level. In August 2013, she got married and, just six weeks later, received some exciting news. "I'm pregnant!" Erin shares. "I'm super-excited."

As she prepares for motherhood, Erin thinks about the type of relationship she wants with her own children. "I want my children to know that they can come to me with anything. I

don't want them to feel that they have to keep secrets the way I kept secrets as a child," she says.

Erin's ultimate goal for Erin's Law is to see it become a national law -- no matter how long it takes. "I will be 95 years old and still pushing for this law," she says. "I'm not stopping!"

Erin's Law

SCHOOL DISTRICTS MUST TEACH CHILDREN TO TELL ON ANYONE WHO TRIES TO TOUCH THEIR PRIVATE PARTS



WHAT IS ERIN'S LAW?

FEATURED VIDEO: Erin Merryn on "Oprah"



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Click on map to enlarge



Erin's Law is named after childhood sexual assault survivor, author, speaker and activist Erin Merryn, who is the founder and President of Erin's Law, which is registered with the State of Illinois and the IRS as a 501 (c)(4) non-profit social welfare organization.

After Erin introduced the legislation in her home state of Illinois, the bill was named "Erin's Law" after her by legislators and it has caught on nationwide.

"Erin's Law" requires that all public schools in each state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program which teaches:

1. Students in grades preK – 12th grade, age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted

adult

- 2. School personnel all about child sexual abuse
- 3. Parents & guardians the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families



Already these state governments have passed Erin's Law in this order:

- 1. Illinois
- 2. Indiana
- 3. Maine
- 4. Missouri
- 5. Michigan
- 6. Arkansas
- 7. Mississippi
- 8. Nevada
- 9. New Mexico
- 10. Utah
- 11. Tennessee
- 12. New Hampshire
- 13. Connecticut
- 14. Louisiana
- 15. South Carolina
- 16. Vermont
- 17. Pennsylvania
- 18. Rhode Island
- 19. California

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Cell # to receive texts:

TWITTER

It is now pending in these additional states, with more to come:

- 1. Delaware
- 2. Georgia
- 3. Hawaii
- 4. Iowa
- 5. Kansas
- 6. Massachusetts
- 7. Minnesota
- 8. Nebraska
- 9. New York
- 10. Ohio
- 11. Oklahoma

12. South Dakota
 13. Kentucky
 14. North Carolina
 15. West Virginia
 16. Maryland
 17. Alaska
 18. New Jersey
 19. District of Columbia
-

Tweets**Follow****Erin Merryn**

5h

@ErinMerryn

May 4, 2002

I can't continue to live this way. God will you please just take me you seem to be the only answer to...
fb.me/73t7tMQT5

Expand

**Erin Merryn**

22h

@ErinMerryn

Please sign!!! SHARE!
fb.me/3TJWhWKj8

Show Summary

Tweet to @ErinMerryn

RECENT POSTS

Where Are They Now? Erin Merryn?

February 23rd, 2014

Check out Erin's interview on Oprah Winfrey's Network on: WHERE ARE THEY NOW Where Are They Now? [...]

AN UNIMAGINABLE ACT

November 18th, 2013

November 5th was the release of my third book AN UNIMAGINABLE ACT I had an excellent book launch [...]

An Unimaginable Act

October 7th, 2013

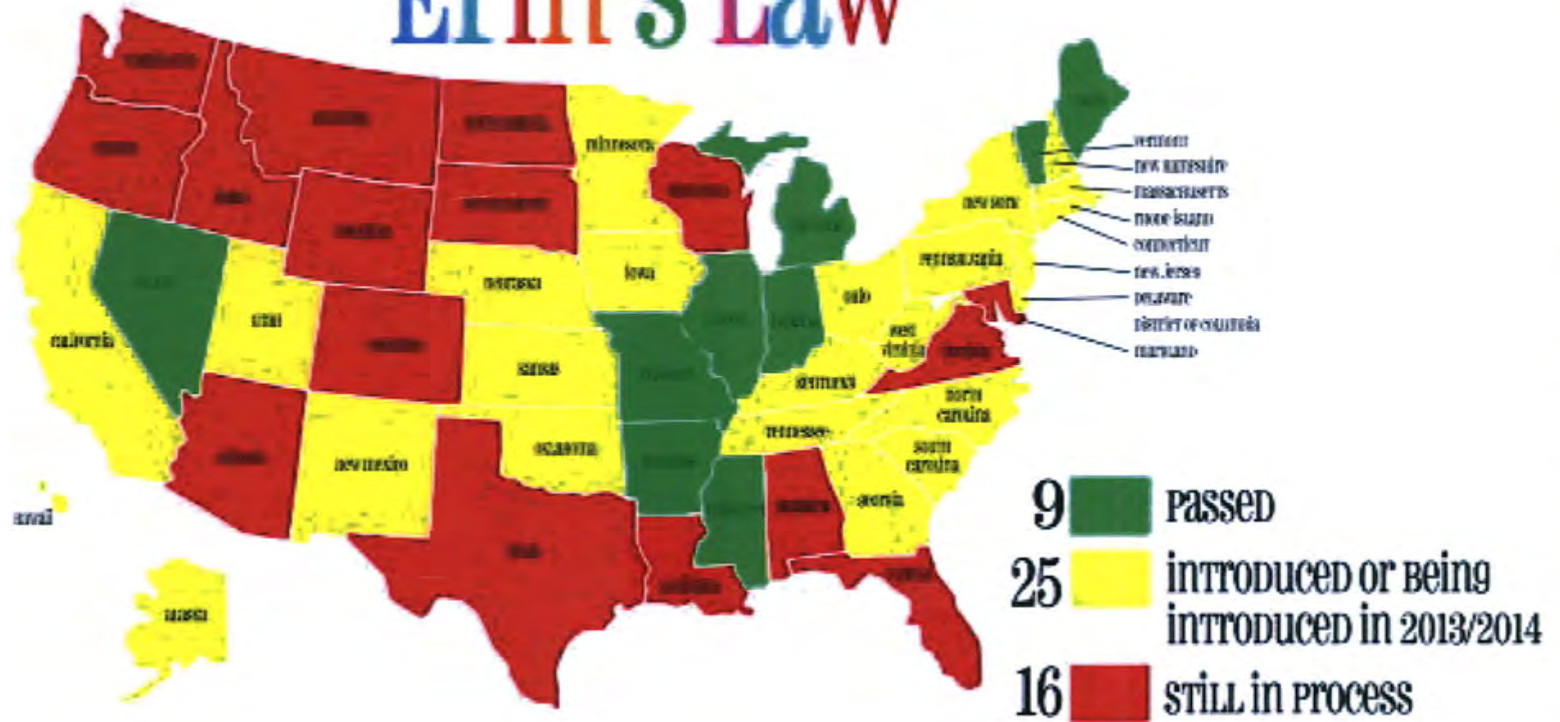
I begin my third book: An Unimaginable Act with the introduction describing the worst

There are 42 million sexual abuse survivors in America; 3 million are children, which would fill 46 national football stadiums

93 percent of children know their abuser; 7 percent is by a stranger.

1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18.

ERIN'S LAW



current as of 01-28-14

we teach kids 8 ways to say no to drugs, but where are the 8 ways on how to get away and tell today?



Have questions?

Need resources?

Get Help Now!

Online Help Center
<http://GetHelp.StopItNow.org>

Stop It Now! prevents the sexual abuse of children by mobilizing adults, families and communities to take actions that protect children before they are harmed.



351 Pleasant Street
Suite B-319
Northampton, MA 01060
Phone: 413.587.3500
Fax: 413.587.3505
www.StopItNow.org
Info@StopItNow.org
HelpLine: 1.888.PREVENT

Warning Signs in Children and Adolescents of Possible Child Sexual Abuse

Any one sign doesn't mean that a child was sexually abused, but the presence of several suggests that you begin asking questions and consider seeking help. Keep in mind that some of these signs can emerge at other times of stress such as:

- During a divorce
- Death of a family member or pet
- Problems at school or with friends
- Other anxiety-inducing or traumatic events

Behavior you may see in a child or adolescent

- Has nightmares or other sleep problems without an explanation
- Seems distracted or distant at odd times
- Has a sudden change in eating habits
 - Refuses to eat
 - Loses or drastically increases appetite
 - Has trouble swallowing.
- Sudden mood swings: rage, fear, insecurity or withdrawal
- Leaves "clues" that seem likely to provoke a discussion about sexual issues
- Writes, draws, plays or dreams of sexual or frightening images
- Develops new or unusual fear of certain people or places
- Refuses to talk about a secret shared with an adult or older child
- Talks about a new older friend
- Suddenly has money, toys or other gifts without reason
- Thinks of self or body as repulsive, dirty or bad
- Exhibits adult-like sexual behaviors, language and knowledge

Signs more typical of younger children

- An older child behaving like a younger child (such as bed-wetting or thumb sucking)
- Has new words for private body parts
- Resists removing clothes when appropriate times (bath, bed, toileting, diapering)
- Asks other children to behave sexually or play sexual games
- Mimics adult-like sexual behaviors with toys or stuffed animal
- Wetting and soiling accidents unrelated to toilet training



Signs more typical in adolescents

- Self-injury (cutting, burning)
- Inadequate personal hygiene
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Sexual promiscuity
- Running away from home
- Depression, anxiety
- Suicide attempts
- Fear of intimacy or closeness
- Compulsive eating or dieting

Physical warning signs

Physical signs of sexual abuse are rare. If you see these signs, bring your child to a doctor. Your doctor can help you understand what may be happening and test for sexually transmitted diseases.

- Pain, discoloration, bleeding or discharges in genitals, anus or mouth
- Persistent or recurring pain during urination and bowel movements
- Wetting and soiling accidents unrelated to toilet training

What You Can Do If You See Warning Signs

- Create a [Safety Plan](#). Don't wait for "proof" of child sexual abuse.
- Look for patterns of behavior that make children less safe. Keep track of behaviors that concern you. This [Sample Journal Page](#) can be a helpful tool.
- See our [Let's Talk Guidebook](#) for tips on speaking up whenever you have a concern.
- If you have questions or would like resources or guidance for responding to a specific situation, visit our [Online Help Center](#), <http://GetHelp.StopItNow.org>.

Remember, the most effective prevention takes place before there's a child victim to heal or an offender to punish.

For more information and guidance, please visit our Online Help Center, <http://GetHelp.StopItNow.org>.



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alaskachildrenstrust.org

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24 March 2014

Dear Representative Tarr,

It is with pleasure to provide you with this letter of support for HB 23 – Erin's Law. The Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) is the lead statewide organization focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Children are one of the greatest resources in Alaska. Each year, nearly 12,000 babies are born in Alaska - approximately 25% of Alaska's population is under the age of 18. Unfortunately, not all of these children live in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment. Research shows that children who experience trauma, like child abuse or neglect, have a greater risk of experiencing some of the social, behavioral and physical ills that plague our communities like obesity, diabetes, domestic violence, substance abuse, not graduating high school or entering the correctional system.

Alaska has one of the highest rates of child abuse and neglect in the nation. In 2012, Office of Children Services completed over 10,000 initial assessments of children. It is estimated that 65% of infants and toddlers in Alaska have at least one risk factor known to increase the chance of poor health, school and developmental outcomes. Nearly 30% of the children maltreated are under age 3.

HB 23 – Erin's Law is one step closer to us ensuring Alaska's children grow-up in a safe and nurturing environment. We encourage you all to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Trevor J Storrs
Executive Director





February 12, 2014

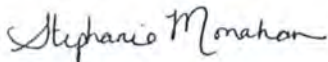
Dear Representative Tarr,

Child abuse in Alaska is a chronic and devastating problem. To overcome the high rates of abuse in Alaska, prevention efforts need to be deployed at multiple levels in order to break the cycle of abuse and give children in Alaska the tools they need to reach their full potential.

Unfortunately, the trauma and sustained stress associated with child abuse has been shown to undermine a child's development. Such factors damage the developing brain and adversely impact a child's learning and behavior, making academic achievement more difficult. Moreover, such factors increase susceptibility to physical and mental illness and put children at higher risk for involvement in delinquent and/or criminal activities. When children do not have equal opportunity for healthy growth and development, we are putting the future society of Alaska at risk.

The All Alaska Pediatric Partnership supports Erin's Law (House Bill No. 233) as one component of a statewide prevention system needed to help reduce child abuse and neglect. Alaska's schools need comprehensive health education standards that can compliment a statewide prevention system with funding to support improved outcomes.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Monahan
Executive Director



Matthew Hirschfeld, MD/PhD
Co-Chair—Executive Committee

Emily Stevens, RN, BSN, MSN

Emily Stevens
Co-Chair—Executive Committee

The All Alaska Pediatric Partnership
PO Box 230567
Anchorage, AK 99523
www.a2p2.com

February 13, 2014

P.O. Box 4105
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Re: HB No. 233

Representative and Senators,

I am writing to support Representative Tarr's HB 133, "Erin's Law". Unlike many Alaskans, I have first-hand experience working with students to raise awareness of sexual abuse and assault. For twelve years, I was an Assistant District Attorney for the State. For a decade I worked in the Palmer District Attorney's Office where I was the sole attorney working on all sexual abuse and sexual assault cases in the Valley. I now own a business where I routinely give internet safety education presentations to students of all ages, which includes awareness on sexual assault and abuse, and I have presented to staff and counselors on mandatory reporting issues. Finally, though this letter is my personal opinion, I do sit on the Governor's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault as a public member.

School districts must be involved in educating our youth in these areas. Violence affects many children, which in turn affects their ability to learn. Schools need to teach not just reading, writing and arithmetic, but also issues that affect the emotional well-being and future of children.

Erin's Law is another tool for the State to use to reduce our ranking as the number one state in incidences per capita of rape and child abuse. Erin's Law is proactive not reactive, and the first step in prevention is being proactive.

I encourage and urge you to support HB 233 and help reduce sexual violence against our youth.

Sincerely,

Rachel K. Gernat



NEA-ALASKA

Affiliated with the National Education Association

February 13, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of NEA-Alaska's 13,000 teachers and education support professionals, as well as Alaska's 130,000 public school students, I am voicing support for HB 233, "Erin's Law."

As education professionals, student safety is of the highest concern. From the moment students step onto the school bus in the morning until the time they finish their extracurricular activities in the evening, Alaska's most precious and valuable resource is in our care. It is our job to make sure their learning environment is safe, and to prepare them to protect themselves in the wider world.

Sexual assault and abuse prevention and awareness programs are a key component of keeping Alaska's children safe. Such programs allow Alaskan educators to recognize the signs of such violence more quickly, and provide an immediate and direct route of aid for students. It is important that every Alaskan child knows that he or she can speak out to find safety from sexual assault and abuse.

As educators, our students' safety always comes first. We wholeheartedly urge the passage of HB 233, which would mandate sexual assault and abuse awareness and prevention in Alaska's schools. Thank you to Rep. Lynn Gattis and the House Education Committee for taking the time to address this most important issue.

Sincerely,

Ron Fuhrer
President, NEA-Alaska

Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

Re: H.B. 233, Erin's Law

Dear Legislators,

As representatives of numerous youth groups throughout Alaska, we are writing today in support of H.B. 233, Erin's Law. Child abuse in Alaska is a chronic and devastating problem. Many of us have been subject to or know someone who has been a victim of abuse, be it physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, or neglect. As children, we suffered in silence thinking that this was just how life was. We were rarely empowered to speak up for ourselves and, even if we were, we did not know who to talk to.

This bill requires Alaska public schools to create lessons teaching kids, teachers, and staff how to recognize abuse and know who to talk to. We think that if kids and the adults they spend most of their days with had this knowledge, a lot of kids can be taken out of situations that lead to other problems later in life. Child abuse frequently leads to other major societal problems, like criminal behavior, drug use, mental illness, and emotional instability. Kids who are abused are also more likely to become abusers.

We all visited the Legislators this year and work for our organizations in order to be part of the solution to these problems. Every day, we meet youth with addiction problems, emotional trauma, and criminal tendencies. Giving these kids the power to speak up for themselves and giving adults the tools to listen could really make a difference in how they live day to day. This is why we are writing to ask for you to think about how much better Alaska could be and support H.B. 233.

Sincerely,

Nate Bennett
Nate Bennett

Juneau, AK

Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

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Sincerely,



Roseann Agoney

My name is Roseann Agoney, I'm 20 years old, and I live in Anchorage, Alaska. I was in and out of foster care for three to four years. After my dad got my siblings and I back somewhere back in 2005/2006 we've all been struggling since. I've dealt with drug abuse and alcoholism since then, but I can say now that I no longer am.

Ever since I was little all I can really remember is being around alcoholics and drug users. Seeing my parents and other family members drink and smoke I thought it was okay that did those things too. At the age of ten I would often steal alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana from my parents. At first it was to get the approval of my friends, but later on I was stealing those things because I felt that I needed them. After my dad got us back from OCS we lived in Anchorage and for me it was such a dramatic change that I started to do poorly in school. I was in middle school when I decided to be homeschooled and after that all I was interested in was getting high, just so I could escape the reality I lived in. Because my dad was into drugs and my siblings and I couldn't be around each other for long without trying to kill one another. Since my dad is disabled he couldn't work and due to that we were always struggling day to day.

I was always being put down by my dad almost every other day. In his eyes I was never going to amount to anything because I was smoking weed every day and drinking from time to time. It had gotten to the point that I had tried to commit suicide, but I thought about my younger sisters and who was going to take care of them.

When I was sixteen I wanted to prove him wrong so I tried to cold turkey everything the first time and ended up doing the same old things. So I started smoking and drinking less each time until I was like nope I don't feel like doing that. Because I realized how much of a better person I was when I wasn't high or drunk. I learned how to love myself; I saw how much I improved afterwards. I did better in school I graduated on time; I even had an internship with the RAISE Program! My younger sisters look up to me. But I'm still trying to be a better person, a good role model for my sisters. I'm trying to get a higher education so that I may get a good paying job so I can give them a home where they can grow and put roots down instead of drifting from place to place.

I hope that you keep supporting counseling, treatment, and job support for the youth in Alaska, so we can have a better brighter future. And to show that there are people out there who care, who are willing to help. Thank you for listening to my story.

Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

Re: H.B. 233, Erin's Law

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Sincerely,

Brooke wes
Brooke wes
nightmoonbw@gmail.com

My name is Brooke wes I'm from Juneau
I fully support the passing of this bill, when
I was a child I was sexually abused
by my father and my older sister. I think people
who sexually abuse others learned it from
someone else. So I think it is a learned
behavior I would really like to break the cycle
Thank you

Story Practice Sheet

- Is your story short and to the point? Is it only 1-3 minutes and only one page?
- Is it "real"? Does your story come from your heart and inspire others?
- Does your story let listeners know what outcome or action you're asking for - the "ask"?
- Use the reverse side, or a separate piece of paper, if you need extra space.

<p>Introduce yourself - your name and residence, subject, and purpose. (2-4 sentences)</p> <p>Hello my name is Brookewes. I am 22 years old. I was in foster care until I was 13 and then I got adopted.</p>
<p>Tell Your Story - the experience or challenge, the action, the result. (5-15 sentences)</p> <p>I don't remember most of my childhood. I do know that a lot of the time my siblings and I did not have food or water or blankets. We did not have heat or blankets. We went days in our dirty clothing. I was born at home I was born into a family that badly abused drugs and alcohol we got beaten so badly that I could not sit for days we got taken away a few times but for some reason they would put us back but when I was six years old I was in a very bad accident and we got taken away for the last time.</p>
<p>Wrap it up - state your "ask" and say thank you. (3-5 sentences)</p> <p>I think kids should be seen and heard you never know what goes on behind closed doors and the disability that might be even more effected by it so take the time to see and hear. Thank you!</p>

Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

Re: H.B. 233, Erin's Law

Dear Legislators,

As representatives of numerous youth groups throughout Alaska, we are writing today in support of H.B. 233, Erin's Law. Child abuse in Alaska is a chronic and devastating problem. Many of us have been subject to or know someone who has been a victim of abuse, be it physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, or neglect. As children, we suffered in silence thinking that this was just how life was. We were rarely empowered to speak up for ourselves and, even if we were, we did not know who to talk to.

This bill requires Alaska public schools to create lessons teaching kids, teachers, and staff how to recognize abuse and know who to talk to. We think that if kids and the adults they spend most of their days with had this knowledge, a lot of kids can be taken out of situations that lead to other problems later in life. Child abuse frequently leads to other major societal problems, like criminal behavior, drug use, mental illness, and emotional instability. Kids who are abused are also more likely to become abusers.

We all visited the Legislators this year and work for our organizations in order to be part of the solution to these problems. Every day, we meet youth with addiction problems, emotional trauma, and criminal tendencies. Giving these kids the power to speak up for themselves and giving adults the tools to listen could really make a difference in how they live day to day. This is why we are writing to ask for you to think about how much better Alaska could be and support H.B. 233.

When I first was meeting with a social worker in 2nd grade, I was asked why I didn't tell anyone about the abuse. I told that social worker that I did, I had told my teacher. I don't know why the teacher didn't help me.

Ciara Goodman
Ciara M. Goodman

Story Practice Sheet

- Is your story short and to the point? Is it only 1-3 minutes and only one page?
- Is it "real"? Does your story come from your heart and inspire others?
- Does your story let listeners know what outcome or action you're asking for – the "ask"?
- Use the reverse side, or a separate piece of paper, if you need extra space.

Introduce yourself – your name and residence, subject, and purpose (2-4 sentences)

I am born & raised Alaskan Native, Ciara Goodman. I am a college student @ UAF in Anchorage. Currently 22 yrs old. I aged out of foster care, graduated residential treatment, and lived in many places of Alaska. I consider myself an intelligent, empathetic, and genuine person and I want to help make a difference.

Tell Your Story – the experience or challenge, the action, the result (5-15 sentences)

My childhood was filled with inconsistency, multiple homes & schools, rejection from family, early medication and a loss of my will to live. Addiction, manipulation, greed & lack of love contributed to the trials of my childhood. As much as it hurt to feel like nothing more than a file it was more painful to witness that I was not alone. That many, hundreds more, children carried the same burden as me, if not worse. And more so we could not see a light at the end of this dark & confusing tunnel. As I realized the depths of the issues concerning many homeless youth I felt the need to do something. Yet I was powerless then. The change that is seriously needed can only source from the power in charge, & unfortunately they didn't know the problem existed. These painful truths gave me the drive to carry on in hopes that I can find a way to break light into that tunnel and see that no foster kid walks through it alone, again.

Wrap it up – state your "ask" and say thank you (3-5 sentences)

It is my desire to join the forces that will aid these youth and to help influence change for a better & brighter tomorrow. I hope to minimize the number of children facing the same sorrows and pain as I did and to increase those filled with love, hope, & fulfillment. Thank you for listening and please join me in supporting Alaska's Youth.

Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

Re: H.B. 233, Erin's Law

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We all visited the Legislators this year and work for our organizations in order to be part of the solution to these problems. Every day, we meet youth with addiction problems, emotional trauma, and criminal tendencies. Giving these kids the power to speak up for themselves and giving adults the tools to listen could really make a difference in how they live day to day. This is why we are writing to ask for you to think about how much better Alaska could be and support H.B. 233.

Sincerely, Alex Krause
Alex Krause.

1/5/14

Story Practice Sheet

- Is your story short and to the point? Is it only 1-3 minutes and only one page?
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- Does your story let listeners know what outcome or action you're asking for – the "ask"?
- Use the reverse side, or a separate piece of paper, if you need extra space.

Introduce yourself – your name and residence, subject, and purpose (2-4 sentences)

Hello My Name is Alexandra Krause, I'm From North Pole Alaska, I currently live in Fairbanks, I work at Quiznos and I live in my car with my fiancée, who is a college student, and my Dog Romeo

Tell Your Story – the experience or challenge, the action, the result (5-15 sentences)

I grew up rough. Never around positive influences. Drug addicts and moving from home to home. I've struggled with homelessness my whole life. Growing up I had 13 child protective service cases on me and my younger sister. But we never got taken from my mother. I often wonder if life would have been better if they did take us. ~~As~~ Going through that I learned to lie about things so I could stay with my mom, they made it too easy. I moved out well, ran away at 11. And no one noticed, our was long gone. There I found S.O.A.P. They helped for a long time. then they started losing funds.

Wrap it up – state your "ask" and say thank you (3-5 sentences)

I can't receive help from soap any more because they have too many clients, and too little money. I'm not worried about myself this has been my life... but those kids are me and local homeless programs need much more funding and

services available to them. 2014 Youth Policy Summit Application • Page 5 of 5

Thank You!

Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

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Sincerely,

 2/4/14
James LeBlare - Tweedy

Story Practice Sheet

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- Does your story let listeners know what outcome or action you're asking for – the "ask"?
- Use the reverse side, or a separate piece of paper, if you need extra space.

Introduce yourself – your name and residence, subject, and purpose (2-4 sentences)

My name is James Alexander Letslane-Toussaint. My name before adoption was James Robert LeBlanc. I am twenty years old and live in Juneau AK. I was placed in foster care when I was 10 and was in and out of treatment and jail till I was 19.

Tell Your Story – the experience or challenge, the action, the result (5-15 sentences)

I can always remember when I was young, six small and stole, lied and always getting into trouble. When I was placed in foster care with my two younger brothers Iain (6) and Angus (8) I was ten. When in foster care I never counted but adopted + after being placed in residential 14 times. I was sent to treatment at the age of 14 for a crime I did not commit. I was then placed on probation. Now I have been between jail and treatment since I was 19. I was then homeless until now although I am now living in the glory hole.

Wrap it up – state your "ask" and say thank you (3-5 sentences)

I hope the story I have provided to you will help you look at the youth systems and make the changes that would make young childrens lives happier and something they can be proud of. Thank you for reading my story, I hope it helps you make the needed changes that are needed. Thank you for your time.

Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

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Sincerely,

Deborah

Deborah
Yunak

Yunak

Scammon Bay

Scammon Bay

Story Practice Sheet

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My name is Deborah Yunak, I'm 19 yrs. old, and I live in Scammon Bay Alaska. I went to a residential treatment in the year of 2010 to Fairbanks for 9 months for substance abuse and depression.

once I got into Junior high I started to get into trouble with marijuana use and alcohol. I thought it would make me cool and have more friends by doing substance abuse, I used it daily to where I got addicted. I started to miss school more often because I was so depressed missing my aunt that passed away. I'd always let my friends make me alcohol. I use to think doing substance abuse would help me go to my aunt, but nothing happen, my mom finally realize that I haven't been home, so she called the school attendent to see if I've been going school, she told my mom that I haven't been to school for a week now. when I finally went home I went home drunk, my mom scold me, I took it the wrong way and hung my self.

I hope that the support of our community programs help our young people with counseling, treatment, and jobs so they can be close to our loved ones, and our friends to stay out of big trouble. And I want to say thank you for listening to my story.

Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

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Sincerely,



Kristie Lynn Sheppard 2.5.14
Mountain Village, AK

Hello, my name is Kristie Lynn Sheppard, eighteen years of age from Mountain Village, Alaska. I was born in Bethel, Alaska. I am a Senior in High School, during the summer I work with Kwikpak Fisheries. My favorite things to do are math, writing poems and singing.

I have a lot of experienced with being in foster care. The first time I ever got taken away from my mother I was five years old. My younger sister wasn't around. I stayed in an OCS facility for a while, then moved to a foster home where they treated me horribly. But I was too afraid to tell anyone. After about six months I moved with my mother and sister in treatment. A couple years later my two twin baby sisters were born. When they were about one year old we all got taken away by OCS. We all stayed in an OCS facility for a while, then were separated into different foster homes. We were all reunited after a few months, been to two different foster homes, then I moved to Mountain Village with my sister, the youngest ones are now adopted. I've also been to about ten different schools my whole life, which was pretty complicated.

This kind of experience is very hard to go through, no one deserves it. But sometimes we just have to deal with it. Children who go through this must get stronger because I had to well, thank you very much for listening to my experience and I hope this story would be able to help others. And I hope you can help by listening to our stories!

Hi my name is Nathaniel Bennett and I currently live in Anchorage, Alaska. I am part Alaskan native and African American and I have experience growing up in rural Alaska for about 10 years in the village of Chevak. I am a for intern for Alaska Native Justice Center assisting two Youth Advocates on working with you who have been in trouble with Alcoholism. I also attend the University Of Anchorage, AK as a Justice Major. I've experienced about 2 days of treatment at North Star behavioral center for underage drinking, which my parents sent me to. I've also had trouble growing up through bullied in school which led to problems from childhood to teen hood.

Since I was growing up at a young age I spent most of my life in the village. From the time I entered elementary I was bullied by my classmates and kids around the village because I looked different from the other kids in my village. Experiencing bullying at that young of an age caused me to lash out in anger against my classmates and caused me to verbally attack my teachers because they did not prevent the bullying that the kids were putting me through. So my parents stepped in and spoke to the principal and teachers to help stop the bullying. Since they did little to prevent the problem, my parents moved me out of the village and into the city. When they did that my anger and disruptive behavior quickly diminished against my new teachers and classmates. By the time I entered middle school and high school I formed a phobia with socializing with other people because I thought that they were judging the way I looked and spoke. So that caused me to live a very isolated and private life style. So after a while I became very lonely and depressed and decided to drink alcohol to relieve the social anxiety. When I would drink alcohol, it made me feel more "accepted" by others and I felt like I could talk to anyone without feeling judged and without feeling uneasy. After a while of drinking, I would

either get arrested for being intoxicated, wake up with severe hang overs, and get into fights with family and friends which would strain relationships between my parents and siblings.

I decided to give up drinking in order to show my parents, siblings, and friends that I was no screw up. I found myself in a prison without a job or diploma and decided it was time for me to be responsible for myself and to live a productive life. I studied for about a 6 months to prepare for my test for my diploma. I took the test and earned my diploma. As soon as I earned my diploma I applied for jobs. I had got hired for various different jobs that were involved in construction. I wanted to take a break from that type of work, and gain more experience in data entry, working with youth, and computer programs. I searched around for job openings, so that I could gain experience in helping people. So I got a job working with youth who were in trouble with drugs and alcohol at the Alaska Native Justice Center. With experience in living a negative life style into a productive and positive one, I plan to show other youth that they too can make a difference in their lives to stop underage drinking and drug usage and to be responsible in their lives by earning an education, staying out of trouble, finding career that they are interested in, and to be a productive citizen in their community.

I know that pretty soon the government will create classes, clubs, or programs to help educate youth from abusing alcohol/drugs, to stop underage drinking, and to ignore peer pressure from family and friends. Also to help show them the steps to live a healthy life style, to go to college or trade school, and to maintain their paths to success. I appreciate your patience to read my personal story, thank you and have a good day.

From: [Amanda Price](#)
To: [Samantha Weinstein](#)
Subject: FW: Erin's Law
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014 1:25:01 PM

From: McGee_Molly <mcgee_molly@asdk12.org>

Subject: Erin's Law

To all Legislators,
My name is Molly McGee and I have been a Health Teacher K-6th grade at Government Hill Elementary School in Anchorage for the past five years. I have taught abuse prevention to all students K-6th grade and I have seen from first hand experience how essential this topic is. Every year I have made 1-2 reports to Child Protected Services in order to keep students safe and/or to stop abuse from happening in the home. Abuse prevention is a topic that we cannot ignore, especially in the state of Alaska where sexual abuse is such a major problem. When a student tells a trusted adult about an abuse, this action can and does change the course of their life forever.

As an educator and a mom I strongly encourage you today to vote for the Erin's Law to build awareness, safety and most importantly to stop the cycle of abuse from happening and keeping all of our youth safe. Please call me or email me with any further questions. Thank you for your time.

Best, Molly McGee
(907) 229-8006
mcgee_molly@asdk12.org

Molly McGee
Health Teacher
Government Hill Elementary
(907)-742-5000

From: [Amanda Price](#)
To: [Samantha Weinstein](#)
Subject: LOS for hearing tomorrow
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014 1:25:04 PM

From: Kenning_Lisa <Kenning_Lisa@asdk12.org>

REPRESENTATIVE(S) Tarr, Gara, Drummond, Josephson, Kito III, Millett, Nageak, Munoz, Holmes, Edgmon, Costello

I've been an educator in the Anchorage School District for the past 25 years.

As most of you are aware, we currently have a curriculum on personal safety that is taught in grades K-6. If we are lucky enough to have a supportive principal, we can also invite S.T.A.R. into our classrooms for additional support. S.T.A.R. is an amazing organization that does an incredible job with our students.

As an educator, we need to be supported and provided the material and resources to educate our students on personal safety, which is an enormous problem in our state. I strongly support HB233.

Lisa Kenning
Health Specialist



Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest

Representative Geran Tarr
Alaska Legislature
State Capitol Room 114
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 233

March 4, 2014

Dear Representative Tarr,

On behalf of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest, I write today to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 233, which would establish sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention programs in our schools. As a health care provider and sex educator, we know that healthy sexuality education is an integral part of violence prevention.

The more information a student or teacher has about sexual violence, the more likely they are to identify sexual abuse or assault when it occurs. Teachers need the skills to recognize victims of abuse, and students need tools of their own to evaluate potential risks for sexual violence in their relationships. Discussing sexuality can also make those experiencing sexual abuse or assault feel more comfortable about speaking up and getting help. With proper training, teachers can also be better equipped to offer their support and resources to students in need.

Additionally, we strongly believe that sexual violence prevention efforts should take the extra step beyond discussions of abuse and assault, and explain what safe, consensual and respectful relationships look like. Evidence-based curricula in this area are essential to teaching students and educators the differences between healthy and unhealthy sexual behaviors.

Eradicating something as culturally pervasive as sexual violence starts with dialogue and awareness. House Bill 233 takes a great first step by educating both students and teachers about the warning signs of sexual abuse and assault. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Cler'.

Jessica Cler
Alaska Public Affairs Manager

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest
4050 Lake Otis Parkway Suite 205 Anchorage, AK 99516
907.770.9705 | jessica.cler@ppvotestnorthwest.org

Jasmine Stanturf
5360 Glacier Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801

December 11, 2014

Rep. Geran Tarr
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Tarr:

I am writing to you today to express my support for Erin's law. I believe at a young age we learn more, and by teaching our kids the difference between good touch and bad touch it will give kids the knowledge to say "no" and tell a trusted adult. It will also help kids recognize when someone is showing signs of abuse and that could have the potential to prevent future assaults.

The main reason why I support Erin's law is, because when I was little, I was molested by my father and was too scared to tell anyone. I did not even tell my mother. My dad also made me believe that it was my job to take care of him (even though I was 5 and he was in his 30's). My little brother got the worst of it, after my little brother told my mother. The beatings got worse and I couldn't do anything but act like I was going to call the police but I didn't know how to even make a call.

When my mother found out I was being molested, and my little brother was being beat and molested, she divorced my father and applied for full custody, but they got joint custody. She was trying everything in her power to get proof that he was molesting us. She took us to doctor after doctor. They found signs, but not enough. I also wouldn't talk because I was too scared. After my father's drug bust my mother jumped on the opportunity, and made him sign a paper saying she could leave with my brother and I.

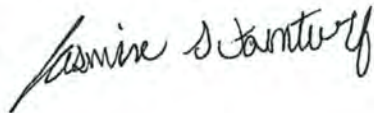
By the time I was 8 we had moved to Alaska. I still didn't talk, until one day when I was 10, I stayed in from a recess and told the lady who came in from AWARE, and I told her everything that I remembered. I can't remember a lot because my mind put a block on some of the bad things my father did to us. I was in counseling until I was 12. I'm 16 now. I get flash backs from time to time and I am now working through PTSD while slowly remembering things, and telling them to my mom. My brother is 13, and in a facility. They are treating him for PTSD, and depression and a little bit of autism.

I hope that one day I can counsel adults or children that have gone through similar things as I have. I hope to let them know that they can move on, there is a life after abuse, and it is not their fault. When I grow up I want to create an organization, and to help support ideas like Erin's law.

Thank you for listing.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Stanturf

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jasmine Stanturf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Reply Reply All Forward

H.B. 233: Testimony in Support

Esther Smith [smith.l.esther@gmail.com]

To: Rep. Lynn Gattis

Cc: Rep. Geran Tarr

Thursday, March 27, 2014 7:40 PM

Dear Chair Gattis,

I stand strongly in support of H.B. 233, which relates to sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention efforts in public schools throughout the state of Alaska.

Legislation of this strength, scope, and content is long overdue in this state. We know that violence is a learned behavior, which means that we can prevent it from occurring with proper, comprehensive education policies. "Erin's Law" seeks to fill a much needed gap within our education system by recognizing the need for mandatory training and awareness on the subjects of sexual abuse and sexual assault.

As a young adult who has spent the last several decades living in Eagle River and, now, Juneau, Alaska, I cannot count the number of loved ones that have bravely shared with me their traumatic childhood experiences with sexual violence and abuse. Their experiences, told so many years after the violence occurred, highlight the power and control and manipulation tactics that perpetrators use to groom and isolate victims.

Throughout this state, there is so much shame and blame directed at victims of sexual abuse and violence. People feel deeply uncomfortable discussing this subject and it's treated like a Pandora's Box: the moment people address Alaska's horrific rates of violence, they have to recognize how endemic this issue is and how the perpetrators are our neighbors, our friends, and our family members. It's a deeply uncomfortable realization that quite a few people would prefer to avoid. But it is a deeply important conversation that needs to be occurring throughout the entire state and within our schools.

The question is not whether or not violence is preventable. The question is how do we best prevent it. H.B. 233 provides a succinct, comprehensive approach to a very real challenge by recognizing that our legislature has a role in promoting violence prevention and our school system has a role in educating students, parents, and staff about this very serious subject.

As the Chair of the Committee on Education, you play a powerful and unique role in addressing the needs of Alaska's children and youth through meaningful, thoughtful legislation. Please seize this opportunity and employ empathy as you listen to testimony tomorrow morning.

Sincerely,
Esther Smith

Reply Reply All Forward



HB 233

Christine Gerlock [cmgerlock@hotmail.com]

To: Rep. Lynn Gattis**Cc:** Rep. Geran Tarr

Thursday, March 27, 2014 7:42 PM

- You replied on 3/27/2014 10:34 PM.

Rep. Gattis,

Please consider supporting House Bill 233, Erin's Law which will provide age appropriate sexual abuse education to children in public schools. This is an important step in empowering children to recognize and report child sexual abuse. Since Alaska has a high rate child sexual abuse, this is an amazing opportunity to change the lives of Alaskan children and their families.

Thank you for your consideration,
Christine M. Gerlock



West Anchorage High School

1700 Hillcrest Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517
(907) 742-2500
FAX (907) 742-2525

"Home of the Eagles"

To Whom It May Concern:

March 27, 2014

It is without pause I write to encourage the passing of Erin's Law in the state of Alaska. As a teacher of English at West Anchorage High School, the programs and educational experiences supported through Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) have proven indispensable. My students have interacted with educators from STAR, Victim's for Justice, the FBI, Anchorage Police Department, and Alaska Youth Advocates, to name a few, in order to gain a better understanding and a closer realization of sexual assault awareness and prevention.

Providing a Comprehensive Health Education Program for schools, students, and teachers would continue to provide appropriate materials for all ages to hear. In addition, it enables educators, and those working with children ages 4-18, with the proper tools to alert and inform individuals of the high rates of sexual abuse in Alaska. Personally, I have invited educators to my room for seven years in order to prepare my students with the proper knowledge of awareness and prevention before they head off to college, the military, or the work place. The educators have also helped some of my students, who were victims, reach out and find proper support.

If teachers in Alaska were asked to attend professional development activities to strengthen their understanding in conveying this essential information in their classrooms, or simply being aware for observation purposes, the advantages would be limitless. Just in my seven years of working with these outside resources, I have had students practice using the Internet more safely, come forward about abusive households, find encouragement from trustworthy adults, and realize ways they can start preventing these crimes from continuing.

Alaska would be remiss to not pass Erin's Law. As educators, we agree to provide a well-rounded educational experience for all students. Personally, I aim to prepare my students for a life after graduation that is balanced, knowledgeable, and communicative. In order to keep doing so effectively, the participation in awareness and prevention programs, as outlined in Erin's Law, is the integral components in offering success. Finally, Erin's Law is essential in moving Alaska forward in the hopes to decrease the high statistics of sexual abuse and assault across the state. Please pass Erin's Law; our students are counting on it!

Sincerely,

Angela M.C. Mazur, M.A.Ed.
West Anchorage High School
English Instructor

Main Office

130 Seward St #209
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907) 586-3650
Fax: (907) 463-4493
www.andvsa.org



Pro Bono Office

PO Box 6631
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone: (907) 747-7545
Fax: (907) 747-7547

February 19, 2014

The Honorable Representative Geran Tarr
State Capitol Bldg., Room
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 233

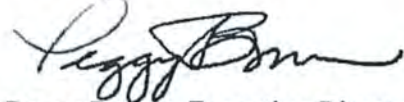
Dear Representative Tarr:

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) is a statewide coalition of 23 victim service agencies and affiliates that provide direct services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including child sexual abuse victims. In addition, our programs provide outreach and education presentations in schools, upon request, as resources allow. Unfortunately, due to limited resources and staff, our programs are not able to fulfill all current outreach requests, particularly in village schools.

Schools are an important partner in our prevention and education efforts and we support the use of new tools to raise awareness, educate and provide critical information about sexual abuse to children. We know from experience, that early prevention and education activities are essential in stopping perpetration before it ever occurs.

Thank you for bringing this important piece of legislation forward.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brown, Executive Director

cc: Lisa Mariotti, Policy Director

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE
Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC
Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG Seward SCS Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICES

Alaska State Legislature
Division of Legal and Research Services
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 465-3991 phone
(907) 465-3908 fax
research@legis.state.ak.us

Research Brief

TO: Representative Geran Tarr
FROM: Tim Spengler, Legislative Analyst
DATE: February 17, 2014
RE: Alaska Child Sexual Abuse Statistics, Fiscal Year 2013
LRS Report 14.254

You asked for information on child sexual abuse allegations in Alaska for the most recent year available.

The Office of Children's Services (OCS), Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, provided us with the sexual abuse allegation data below.¹

Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse Received by the Office of Children's Services in FY 2013²

- 2,296 total allegations received, involving 1,817 unique alleged child victims³
 - Of these allegations, 971 were in the Anchorage Region, 286 in Northern Region, 575 in Southcentral Region, 242 in Southeast Region, and 222 in Western Region
- 1,487 allegations were *screened out*, of which 884 were *screened out* to law enforcement⁴
- 809 allegations were *screened in* for initial assessment⁵

Of the 809 allegations *screened in*:

- 126 allegations were *substantiated*, involving 117 unique child victims
- 646 allegations were *not substantiated*⁶
- 37 allegations were in initial assessments that were closed without finding⁷

Of the 1,817 alleged child victims:

- 1,245 were female

¹ Naomi Harris, OCS Community Relations Manager can be reached at (907)465-3548. Definitions in the footnotes come from OCS Child Protective Services Manual (<http://dhss.alaska.gov/ocs/Documents/Publications/CPManual/cps-manual.pdf>).

² What constitutes child sexual abuse is discussed in Alaska's Child in Need of Aid (CINA) statutes at AS 47.10.011(7).

³ One or more allegations may be associated with a single incident of abuse. The number of allegations should not be interpreted as the number of incidents.

⁴ A report is *screened out* when OCS determines the information received does not meet the definition of maltreatment (as described in AS 47.10.011) or for any of the following reasons: insufficient information to locate, multiple reports on same incident, child residing out-of-state, referred to a tribe that has exclusive jurisdiction, or referred to law enforcement. When allegations made to OCS are *screened out* to law enforcement, it generally means that the abuse was allegedly perpetrated by an individual who resides outside the child's home. These cases are investigated by law enforcement personnel.

⁵ During the initial assessment OCS gathers information to determine whether the child is unsafe or at high risk of maltreatment and the extent of the familial protective capacities. A report is *screened in* when the information received indicates a child may be unsafe or at high risk of maltreatment by a primary caregiver, parent, custodian or guardian.

⁶ At the conclusion of an investigation, OCS determines that an allegation was *substantiated* or *not substantiated*. A *substantiated* finding is one where the available facts indicate a child suffered harm as a result of abuse or neglect as defined by AS 47.17.290. A *not substantiated* finding is one where, based on the available facts, the worker is unable to determine if a child suffered harm as a result of abuse or neglect, or where there are no facts to support the allegation that a child suffered abuse or neglect.

⁷ An initial assessment may be closed without finding when the family cannot be located.

- 556 were male
- 16 the gender was unknown
- 747 were Native
- 951 were Non-Native
- 119 race was undetermined
 - Of the 1,817 alleged victims, 771 were in Anchorage Region, 238 in Northern Region, 485 in Southcentral Region, 183 in Southeast Region, and 147 in Western Region.⁸

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

⁸ Children may be alleged victims in one or more allegations and regions. In regional counts, alleged victims are counted once in each region reported. In Statewide counts, alleged victims are counted once. The sum of regional counts will not add to the statewide total.

Alaska Gov. Bill Walker delivers first State of State speech

By Matt Buxton mbuxton@newsminer.com | Posted: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 11:45 pm

JUNEAU, Alaska — Gov. Bill Walker will take a hard line on investigating the Alaska National Guard and pledged to sign a child sex abuse prevention bill as soon as lawmakers get it to his desk, but just what else the independent governor has in store for the 29th Alaska Legislature is unclear.

Walker rallied lawmakers with his campaign pledge of unity and bipartisanship during his first State of the State address on Wednesday night, but left many looking for more on just how he plans to guide Alaska through the next four years.

“Alaskans, yes, there are challenges ahead. But so many of our most significant accomplishments have come in the face of adversity and in times when we have worked together — with no agenda but to strengthen and prosper our state,” the governor told a joint session of the House and Senate.

Walker laid out, in largely general terms, his plans to weather the fiscal crisis, reduce the cost of energy throughout Alaska, to begin construction on a natural gas pipeline, to expand Alaska’s economy, to expand health-care access to Alaskans, to continue the fight against rape and sexual violence, to clean up the Alaska National Guard, to improve education and to be a leader in arctic policy.

His specifics came on two points: his support for a child sex abuse prevention bill and his plan to ensure the investigation of the Alaska National Guard on allegations of sexual abuse, embezzlement and other misconduct.

Walker said he plans to sign a bill known as Erin’s Law. The bill requires schools to create age-appropriate programs to educate students about sexual abuse and warning signs. The bill is named after child sexual abuse survivor Erin Merryn and has been passed in many other states.

The bill was introduced last year and nearly made it into law before stumbling in the legislative



State of the State

Gov. Bill Walker delivers the first State of the State address of his administration on the second night of the 29th Alaska Legislature. He will deliver the State of the Budget on Thursday night. Matt Buxton/News-Miner

traffic jam of the end of session.

“I ask that this legislature make Alaska the next state to pass Erin’s Law,” he said, to applause from lawmakers.

It was the only direct mention of legislation by the governor.

Walker also said he plans to have Attorney General Craig Richards name an independent special investigator for the National Guard “to get to the bottom of the allegations of sexual assault, misconduct and cover up.”

“As the commander in chief of the Alaska National Guard, let me assure you that the perpetrators will be brought to justice, face expulsion, incarceration or both,” he said.

Those two specifics were positively received in the responses issued by the legislative majority and minority caucuses in both chambers.

“I really appreciated that he is embracing Erin’s law,” said Majority Whip Rep. Bob Herron, D-Bethel.

The rest of the State of the State address received more of a lukewarm response from the Majority, who said they appreciated the tone but wanted more specifics.

“It was a good speech on ‘let’s work together,’ but it was not any different than the campaign rhetoric,” said Senate Majority Leader Sen. John Coghill, R-North Pole. “It was short on nuts and bolts.”

Lawmakers specifically said they wanted to hear more on Walker’s plans to continue work on a natural gas pipeline, stating that Alaska is already well beyond his pledge to build a pipeline to tidewater.

Minority Democrats were largely positive about Walker’s speech, with Anchorage Democratic Sen. Berta Gardner saying she was “gushing” over Walker’s speech during a news conference.

For those left wanting more, particularly when it comes to the budget and Walker’s plans to tackle the projected \$3.5 billion budget shortfall, they’ll have an opportunity tonight. Walker will return to the joint session to deliver the resurrected State of the Budget address at 7 p.m. tonight.

Contact staff writer Matt Buxton at 459-7544. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMpolitics.



Jon Hummell, Interim Director

Division of the Budget

Sam Brownback, Governor

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Lance Kinzer, Chairperson
House Committee on Judiciary
Statehouse, Room 165-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Kinzer:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2432 by House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2432 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2432 would require each school district to adopt and implement a plan to address child sexual abuse for each of its schools offering any of grades kindergarten through six. The plan would be required to include training and education for teachers in order to assist with teacher awareness of child sexual abuse, as well as age-appropriate instruction for students that is related to child sexual abuse.

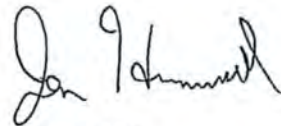
Prior to providing any instruction on sexual abuse, each district would be required to inform parents that they may examine and review the educational materials and decide if the child would be instructed with the materials. If a parent decides that his or her child should not be taught using the materials, the parent would have to inform the school in writing. The State Board of Education would develop materials and guidelines that local boards of education could use in implementing a plan for sexual abuse education.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect				
	FY 2014 SGF	FY 2014 All Funds	FY 2015 SGF	FY 2015 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	\$28,600	\$28,600
FTE Pos.	--	--	--	--

The Honorable Lance Kinzer, Chairperson
January 28, 2014
Page 2—HB 2432

The Department of Education estimates that enactment of HB 2432 would require additional expenditures totaling \$28,600, all from the State General Fund, or approximately \$100 for each of the state's 286 school districts. The estimate include the cost of engaging outside consultants and agencies in the area of child sexual abuse, as well as making the materials accessible to educators and parents on the Department's website. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2432 is not reflected in *The FY 2015 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Hummell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jon Hummell,
Interim Director of the Budget

cc: Dale Dennis, Education



Senate Fiscal Agency
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536



BILL ANALYSIS

Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986

Senate Bills 1112, 1113, and 1114 (as enacted)
Sponsor: Senator John Proos (S.B. 1112)
 Senator Rebekah Warren (S.B. 1113)
 Senator Judy K. Emmons (S.B. 1114)
Senate Committee: Health Policy
House Committee: Education

Date Completed: 2-6-13

CONTENT

Senate Bill 1112 amended the Child Protection Law to do the following:

- **Create the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children.**
- **Require the Task Force to make recommendations for reducing child sexual abuse in Michigan, and for school policies that address the sexual abuse of children.**
- **Require the Task Force to submit to the Governor and the Legislature a final report containing its recommendations within 365 days.**
- **Abolish the Task Force when the final report is submitted.**

Senate Bill 1113 amended the Revised School Code to require the board of a school district or intermediate school district or board of directors of a public school academy to adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children.

Senate Bill 1114 amended the Revised School Code to require a pupil's parent or guardian to be given advance notice of pupil instruction under the policy adopted under Senate Bill 1113, and allow the parent or guardian to have the pupil excused from the instruction.

Senate Bill 1113 was tie-barred to both of the other bills, which were tie-barred to Senate Bill 1113. All of the bills took effect on January 9, 2013.

PUBLIC ACTS 593-595 of 2012**Senate Bill 1112**

The bill created the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children within the Department of Human Services (DHS). The Governor, in consultation with the Department, must appoint members to the Task Force. The appointment of members must reflect the State's geographic diversity. Task Force members must include the following:

- Individuals who have experience and expertise in the fields of intervention and prevention of child abuse and neglect, education, or child welfare.
- One representative each from the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, and the Michigan chapter of the National Children's Alliance.
- An administrator or staff member of a child assessment center.
- A licensed therapist trained to counsel or treat child sexual abuse victims.
- A circuit court judge or his or her designee.
- A member of the board of a school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy.

The DHS Director or his or her designee must serve as the Task Force's presiding officer. Task Force members will serve without compensation and may not be reimbursed for their expenses.

The Task Force must make recommendations for reducing child sexual abuse in Michigan, as well as for school policies that address the sexual abuse of children. In making those recommendations, the Task Force must do all of the following:

- Gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the State.
- Receive reports and testimony from individuals, State and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations.
- Review steps taken and programs established in other states to reduce child sexual abuse.
- Create goals for State policy that are aimed at preventing child sexual abuse.
- Develop a child sexual abuse protocol to be used by all community partners in order to help identify, prevent, and investigate child abuse.

In addition, the Task Force must create recommendations and guidelines for all of the following:

- School policies addressing sexual abuse of children according to Section 1505 of the Revised School Code (enacted by Senate Bill 1113).
- Age-appropriate, evidence-based child sexual abuse awareness.
- School personnel's appropriate response to pupils affected by sexual abuse.
- The provision of educational material to parents and guardians on the warning signs of child sexual abuse and information on assistance and referrals or resources.

The recommendations may include proposals for specific statutory changes and methods to foster cooperation among State agencies and between the State and local government.

Within 365 days after its members are appointed, the Task Force must submit a final report with the recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.

The Task Force must consult with DHS employees who work on child protection matters, the Department of State Police, the State Board of Education, and any other State agency or department necessary to accomplish the Task Force's responsibilities.

Upon written request from a child or his or her parent or legal guardian, the child must be excused, without penalty, from participating in the Task Force's information-gathering efforts.

Upon submission of the required final report, the Task Force will be abolished.

Senate Bill 1113

The bill allows the board of a school district or intermediate school district (ISD) or the board of directors of a public school academy to adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children. If a board chooses to do so, the policy must be substantially consistent with the recommendations and guidelines set by the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children. The policy may address any of the following, but is not limited to these topics:

- Age-appropriate, evidence-based curriculum and instruction for pupils in grades pre-K to five concerning child sexual abuse awareness and prevention.
- Training for school personnel on child sexual abuse, including training on supportive, appropriate response to disclosure of abuse.
- Available counseling and resources for pupils affected by sexual abuse.
- Emotional and educational support for a pupil affected by sexual abuse to allow the pupil to continue to be successful in school.
- The provision of educational information to parents or guardians on the warning signs of a child's being sexually abused and information on needed assistance, referral, or resources.

The educational information may be provided in the student handbook distributed to pupils and parents and guardians.

In addition, the policy may address a review of the system in place in the school district, ISD, or public school academy to educate and support school personnel who are required to report child abuse or neglect under the Child Protection Law, and the process in place for making those mandatory reports. The bill states that this review should include an analysis of the level of compliance with the mandatory reporting

requirements and suggestions to improve compliance.

Any instruction, training, or information provided pursuant to the policy must be substantially consistent with the Task Force's guidelines and recommendations, and may address, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- Methods for increasing teacher, pupil, and parent awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children, including knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child might be a victim of sexual abuse.
- Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual abuse should take to obtain assistance and intervention.
- Available counseling options for pupils affected by sexual abuse.

Pupil instruction under the bill is subject to Section 1505a of the Code (which Senate Bill 1114 added).

Senate Bill 1114

Under the bill, if a school district, ISD, or public school academy provides instruction to pupils on child sexual abuse pursuant to the policy adopted under Senate Bill 1113, a pupil may not be given the instruction unless his or her parent or guardian is notified in advance of the instruction and its content, given a prior opportunity to review the materials to be used, and notified in advance of his or her right to have the pupil excused from the instruction. Upon the written request of a pupil's parent or legal guardian, the pupil must be excused from the instruction without penalty or loss of academic credit.

MCL 722.632b (S.B. 1112)
380.1505 (S.B. 1113)
380.1505a (S.B. 1114)

Legislative Analyst: Julie Cassidy

FISCAL IMPACT

Senate Bill 1112

Creation of the Task Force will result in marginal costs to the State and possibly to local units of government. Associated costs could include printing, organizing and posting meetings, and distributing a final report.

Senate Bill 1113

The option for a school board to adopt and implement a policy on sexual abuse likely will result in a cost to school districts that choose to adopt a policy and do not already have such a policy in place. The extent of the cost will depend upon the type and breadth of sexual abuse policy that is adopted and implemented. The cost is therefore inestimable, but will be at the discretion of the district.

Senate Bill 1114

The requirement for schools to inform parents of upcoming instruction on child sexual abuse likely will cause minimal increases in administrative costs, associated with the costs of notification.

Fiscal Analyst: Frances Carley
Kathryn Summers

S1112\S1112es

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

Consolidated Fiscal Note – 2013-14 Session

Bill #: H1316-0 **Complete Date:** 04/22/13

Chief Author: LESCH, JOHN

Title: ERIN'S LAW-CHILD SEX ABUSE SCHL PLCY

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State	X	
Local	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

Agencies: Education Department (04/17/13)
 Health Dept (04/22/13)
 Legislature (04/22/13)

Public Safety Dept (04/17/13)
 Human Services Dept (04/19/13)

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Net Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Revenues					
-- No Impact --					
Net Cost <Savings>					
-- No Impact --					
Total Cost <Savings> to the State					

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Full Time Equivalents					
-- No Impact --					
Total FTE					

Consolidated EBO Comments

It is unclear which agency will staff the advisory taskforce and coordinate the report due February 15, 2014. No agency assigned to this fiscal note assumed staffing responsibilities. The agency responsible to staff the taskforce will incur administrative expenses through February 16, 2014.

EBO Signature: KRISTY SWANSON
 Date: 04/22/13 Phone: 651-201-8082

Fiscal Note – 2013-14 Session

Bill #: H1316-0 **Complete Date:** 04/17/13

Chief Author: LESCH, JOHN

Title: ERIN'S LAW-CHILD SEX ABUSE SCHL PLCY

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State		X
Local	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

Agency Name: Education Department

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Less Agency Can Absorb					
-- No Impact --					
Net Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Revenues					
-- No Impact --					
Net Cost <Savings>					
-- No Impact --					
Total Cost <Savings> to the State					

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Full Time Equivalents					
-- No Impact --					
Total FTE					

Bill Description

Section 1 of this bill requires school districts to adopt and implement a policy to prevent and address child sexual abuse. The requirements for the policy are listed.

Section 2 creates an advisory task force on preventing child sexual abuse. The membership of the task force includes the commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee. The task force is required to recommend to the commissioner of education and the legislature how schools can help reduce child sexual abuse in Minnesota. A report is due by February 15, 2014 at which time the task force expires.

Assumptions

One representative from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will participate in the task force.

MDE will not be in charge of coordinating the task force and the required report.

There is no compensation for task force members.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

None

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Task force expires on February 16, 2014.

Local Government Costs

School districts will incur costs creating and implementing policies to prevent and address child sexual abuse.

Agency Contact Name: Dykoski, Karen 651-582-8766
FN Coord Signature: KAREN DYKOSKI
Date: 04/17/13 Phone: 651-582-8766

EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: KRISTY SWANSON
Date: 04/17/13 Phone: 651-201-8082

Fiscal Note – 2013-14 Session

Bill #: H1316-0 **Complete Date:** 04/19/13

Chief Author: LESCH, JOHN

Title: ERIN'S LAW-CHILD SEX ABUSE SCHL PLCY

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State		X
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

Agency Name: Human Services Dept

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Less Agency Can Absorb					
-- No Impact --					
Net Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Revenues					
-- No Impact --					
Net Cost <Savings>					
-- No Impact --					
Total Cost <Savings> to the State					

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Full Time Equivalents					
-- No Impact --					
Total FTE					

Narrative for HF1316-0

Bill Description

This bill establishes a new law under Minnesota Statutes 2012, chapter 121A that requires school district policies to address child sexual abuse and creates an advisory task force on the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Assumptions

Section 2 of the bill creates an advisory task force on preventing child sexual abuse, to include the Commissioners of Education, Health, Human Services and Public Safety. It is assumed that a representative of the Department of Human Services (DHS) would participate in the task force that would make recommendations on how schools can help reduce child sexual abuse in Minnesota and that DHS would not have the lead in convening the advisory task force. Participation would fall under the current scope of work of the department, therefore there are no fiscal impacts to DHS.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Fiscal Summary (000's)						
Fund	BACT	Description	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
		Total Net Fiscal Impact	0	0	0	0
		FTE				

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Local Government Costs

References/Sources

Christeen Borsheim, Director Child Safety & Permanency
Children & Family Services
Minnesota Department of Human Services
(651) 431-3857

Agency Contact Name: Jenny Ehrnst 651-431-3831
FN Coord Signature: JAYNE RANKIN
Date: 04/19/13 Phone: 651-431-3432

EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: SUSAN MELCHIONNE
Date: 04/19/13 Phone: 651-201-8035

Fiscal Note – 2013-14 Session

Bill #: H1316-0 **Complete Date:** 04/22/13

Chief Author: LESCH, JOHN

Title: ERIN'S LAW-CHILD SEX ABUSE SCHL PLCY

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State		X
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

Agency Name: Health Dept

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Less Agency Can Absorb					
-- No Impact --					
Net Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Revenues					
-- No Impact --					
Net Cost <Savings>					
-- No Impact --					
Total Cost <Savings> to the State					

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Full Time Equivalents					
-- No Impact --					
Total FTE					

Bill Description

This bill requires school districts to adopt and implement a policy to prevent and address child sexual abuse and establishes an advisory task force on preventing child sexual abuse to recommend to the legislature how to reduce child sexual abuse throughout Minnesota.

Section 2, item (5), indicates that the commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee will be included as a member of the advisory task force.

Assumptions

It is assumed that an existing staff person from the Health Department's Injury and Violence Prevention Unit will be designated by the commissioner to serve on the advisory task force on preventing child sexual abuse. Serving on the task force will be considered part of that staff person's duties. Therefore, this legislation will not have a fiscal impact on MDH.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

No fiscal impact.

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

None

Local Government Impact

None

References/Sources

Child sexual abuse is within the current scope of the Injury and Violence Prevention Unit.

FN Coord Signature: DAVE GREEMAN
Date: 04/22/13 Phone: 651-201-5235

EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: SUSAN MELCHIONNE
Date: 04/22/13 Phone: 651-201-8035

Fiscal Note – 2013-14 Session

Bill #: H1316-0 **Complete Date:** 04/22/13

Chief Author: LESCH, JOHN

Title: ERIN'S LAW-CHILD SEX ABUSE SCHL PLCY

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State		X
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

Agency Name: Legislature

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Less Agency Can Absorb					
-- No Impact --					
Net Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Revenues					
-- No Impact --					
Net Cost <Savings>					
-- No Impact --					
Total Cost <Savings> to the State					

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Full Time Equivalents					
-- No Impact --					
Total FTE					

Bill Description

HF 1316 creates the Advisory Task Force on Preventing Child Sexual Abuse. The 14 member task force will be composed of two representatives, two senators, four state employees and six public members. The Department of Education, Health and Human Services, and Public Safety will provide staff assistance to the task force. The task force will submit a report of its recommendations to the Department of Education and the Legislature by February 15, 2014.

Task force members will serve without compensation and shall not be reimbursed for their expenses. The task force expires on February 16, 2014.

Assumptions

This bill has no fiscal impact on the Legislature since the legislative members of the task force must serve without compensation or reimbursement of expense.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

N/A

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

N/A

Local Government Costs

N/A

References/Sources

Greg Hubinger, Legislative Coordinating Commission

FN Coord Signature: DIANE HENRY-WANGENSTEEN
Date: 04/19/13 Phone: 651-296-1121

EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: MICAH INTERMILL
Date: 04/22/13 Phone: 651-201-8044

Fiscal Note – 2013-14 Session

Bill #: H1316-0 **Complete Date:** 04/17/13

Chief Author: LESCH, JOHN

Title: ERIN'S LAW-CHILD SEX ABUSE SCHL PLCY

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State	X	
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

Agency Name: Public Safety Dept

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Less Agency Can Absorb					
-- No Impact --					
Net Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Revenues					
-- No Impact --					
Net Cost <Savings>					
-- No Impact --					
Total Cost <Savings> to the State					

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Full Time Equivalent					
-- No Impact --					
Total FTE					

Bill Description

House File 1316 mandates that school districts adopt and implement policies to prevent and address child sexual abuse including eight specific requirements listed in the bill. In addition, the bill creates an advisory task force that would include the Commissioner of Public Safety or his/her designee.

Assumptions

The Department of Public Safety/Office of Justice Program (OJP) would supply the Commissioner's designee.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Staff time and travel would be required to attend task force meetings. These costs would be absorbed using existing state funds.

Agency Contact Name: Jeri Boisvert 651-201-7305
FN Coord Signature: LARRY FREUND
Date: 04/11/13 Phone: 651-201-7050

EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: KEITH BOGUT
Date: 04/17/13 Phone: 651-201-8034

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 30, 2009

TO: Honorable David Dewhurst , Lieutenant Governor, Senate
Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **HB1041** by Parker (relating to school district policies addressing sexual abuse of children and establishment of a state strategy to reduce child abuse and neglect and improve child welfare.), **Conference Committee Report**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would create a 9-member task force to establish a strategy for reducing child abuse and neglect and improving child welfare. The provisions relating to the task force would take effect on September 1, 2009 and would expire on September 1, 2011. It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill would be minimal and could be absorbed within available resources.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Costs for school districts, in implementing the bill's requirement to develop and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children, are not expected to be significant.

Source Agencies: 530 Family and Protective Services, Department of, 537 State Health Services, Department of, 696 Department of Criminal Justice

LBB Staff: JOB, JSp, CL, NM, MB



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1705

LR 2353(05)

Resolve, To Create the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children

Fiscal Note for Bill as Engrossed with:

C "A" (H-796)

S "A" (S-571)

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study

Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this task force are projected to be \$2,430 in fiscal year 2012-13, assuming 4 task force meetings. The Legislature's budget includes \$10,000 for studies to be conducted during the interim after the 2nd Regular Session. The Legislative Council has authorized funding for this task force from that budget.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services associated with department representatives serving on the task force can be absorbed within the departments' existing budgeted resources.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0248-02
Bill No.: Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed SCS for SB 54
Subject: Education, Elementary and Secondary; Teachers; Elementary and Secondary Education Department; Children and Minors; Highway Patrol; Social Services Department
Type: Original
Date: June 1, 2011

Bill Summary: This bill creates the Amy Hestir Student Protection Act and Erin's Law.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
General Revenue	(\$105,750)	\$0	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	(\$105,750)	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
 This fiscal note contains 11 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Federal Funds	(\$105,750)	\$0	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	(\$105,750)	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

Estimated Total Net Effect on All funds expected to exceed \$100,000 savings or (cost).

Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund expected to exceed \$100,000 (cost).

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

The following agencies indicated this bill would have no fiscal impact on their respective agencies: **Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Department of Public Safety - Missouri State Highway Patrol, Office of State Public Defender, Office of State Auditor, Office of Prosecution Services, Office of Administration - Office of Child Advocate.**

Officials from the **Department of Public Safety - Office of the Director** assume any costs associated with this bill may be absorbed with existing resources.

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services** state this bill will have no fiscal impact on their agency.

Officials from the **Department of Social Services - Division of Youth Services and Children's Division** state this bill will have no fiscal impact on these respective divisions.

According to officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR)**, this bill should not create any additional fiscal impact above current appropriations to JCAR.

Officials from the **Office of State Courts Administrator** state this bill will have no fiscal impact on the Courts.

Officials from the **Department of Mental Health** state this bill would not appear to add any requirement or responsibility to the their agency that would result in a fiscal impact.

According to officials from the **Office of Secretary of State (SOS)**, many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the proposal. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$2,500.

Oversight assumes the SOS could absorb the costs of printing and distributing regulations related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require the printing and distribution of regulations at substantial costs, the SOS could request funding through the appropriation process. Any decisions to raise fees to defray costs would likely be made in subsequent fiscal years.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials from the **Department of Corrections (DOC)** state that, currently, the DOC cannot predict the number of new commitments which may result from the creation of the offense(s) outlined in this proposal. An increase in commitments depends on the utilization by prosecutors and the actual sentences imposed by the court.

If additional persons are sentenced to the custody of the DOC due to the provisions of this legislation, the DOC will incur a corresponding increase in operational cost through supervision provided by the Board of Probation and Parole (FY10 average of \$3.92 per offender, per day or an annual cost of \$1,431 per offender).

In summary, supervision by the DOC through probation would result in some additional costs, but it is assumed the impact would be \$0 or a minimal amount that could be absorbed within existing resources.

Officials from the **Office of the Attorney General (AGO)** identify two provisions in this bill that may result in additional costs to AGO:

§162.068.3 requires that, if a school employee provides certain information regarding personnel information of a fellow employee (presumably to a potential employer), the AGO would represent the employee providing the information in the event that employee is sued for providing it. Because AGO cannot project the number of cases that could be generated from this provision, AGO assumes that costs would be unknown but under \$100,000 per year, but if there is a significant increase in claims over time, the AGO may seek appropriations to adequately enforce the proposal.

Oversight assumes the that cases that might be generated due to this bill are speculative and for fiscal note purposes only, will assign no fiscal impact.

§168.071 provides some additional crimes which, if committed by a licensed teacher, would subject the teacher to automatic license revocation. Because the AGO handles these revocation cases before DESE, AGO assumes that this amended section could generate additional cases in the event a licensee commits one of the newly enumerated crimes. AGO assumes that any costs associated with this provision could be absorbed within existing resources, but if there is a significant increase in claims over time, the AGO may seek appropriation to adequately enforce the proposal.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

§168.133

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** state that OA-ITSD has determined that automation will be required to share data between DESE, Department of Health and Senior Services, Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, and Department of Mental Health. Additional work by the licensure staff would be required as well.

Currently the certificated and non-certificated school employees are not always kept in the same data storage area. In order to make this process the most efficient, that would need to change. Because of outdated and unsupported software, a new system is currently in process of being developed. That system is estimated at \$1.5 million and is being funded primarily through a federal grant. This system also would accomplish the goal of verifying all employees are on the Family Care Safety Registry and Access Line (FCSR) system, once that system is fully automated. This system also would accomplish the goal of verifying the appropriateness of Social Security Numbers and gather information from national clearing houses for infractions in other states.

The annual cost of verifying that all school employees are registered in the FCSR will be approximately \$1,200,000 (\$10 per person for 120,000 certified teachers). In order to accomplish these requirements, DESE will require 1.5 FTE administrative assistant.

DESE further notes that according to officials with the Missouri Highway Patrol, a "RAP-BACK" system is currently being constructed which will automatically perform checks on all persons currently registered in the FCSR; therefore, once this system is implemented, the annual cost to DESE will no longer exist.

Oversight assumes this system will be in place during FY 11, so **Oversight** will be showing no cost to DESE.

§168.133.4 states that the Missouri State Highway Patrol(MSHP) will provide ongoing electronic updates to criminal history background checks. MSHP is currently in the process of establishing a Rapback system that would provide electronic updates to criminal history background checks. It is estimated that the program will be implemented in 2011. Until the MSHP RapBack system is implemented, the annual criminal background check and sex offender registry check will be included as part of the Family Care Safety Registry. Therefore, the MSHP anticipates no fiscal impact.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Oversight notes that in response to a similar proposal from last session (SCS/SB 631 FN 3358-06) the certificated and non-certificated school employees are not always kept in the same data storage area. Because of outdated and unsupported software, a new system would need to be developed to accomplish the goal of verifying all employees are on the Family Care Safety Registry and Access Line (FCSR) system. That system is estimated at \$1.5 million. This system also would accomplish the goal of verifying the appropriateness of Social Security Numbers and gather information from national clearing houses for infractions in other states. **Oversight** notes that apparently a federal government grant has been obtained to develop the new system.

§210.152.3

According to officials from the **Department of Social Services (DOS)**, §210.152.3 is the only section that has a fiscal impact on DOS business systems. The Family and Children Electronic System (FACES) would require modifications to allow a concluded investigation to be re-opened for review and/or investigation in certain instances up to one year after the children's division rendered a decision. This requirement impacts the Investigation and Assessment and the Case Management components of FACES.

Passage of this proposal would require modifications to FACES allow the re-opening of formerly concluded and closed investigations, including those where the call has been expunged. Effort includes:

- Business requirements definition
- Updates to high level design documents
- Updates to technical specification documents
- Coding and unit testing
- System testing
- Regression testing

Two enhancements would be needed in the Family and Children Electronic System:

1. Modifications required to reopen cases in FACES that have not been expunged:
 - Modify the Appeal and Conclusion to "ReOpen" a closed case. This will invalidate the previous conclusion.
 - o Appeal - 80 hrs
 - o Conclusion - 160 hours
 - o Documentation & Testing -180 hours

ASSUMPTION (continued)

2. Modifications required to re-open cases in FACES where the call has been expunged requires creation of an Expunged Record Retrieval Screen to select the records to be retrieved. Create a batch program to search FACES expunged tapes and restore records into FACES.
 - o Expunged Record Retrieval Screen - 800 hrs
 - o FACES Expunged record search batch program - 800 hrs
 - o FACES Expunged Record Restore program -- 800 hrs

Contractor rate for systems work on FACES averages \$75.00 per hour.

Total Cost = 2,820 hours X \$75.00/hr = \$211,500.00

Assumptions:

Modify the Appeal and Conclusion to "ReOpen" a closed case. This will invalidate the previous conclusion.

Currently, records to be expunged from FACES are written to an expunge table. CD has 30 days to retrieve the records before they are expunged and the "Original Call documents" are shredded.

To retrieve Records expunged from FACES

- o Create a Screen to select the records to be retrieved. Use Call ticket #, DCN, name, etc.
- o Batch program to search FACES expunged tapes and restore records.
- o Records are restored into the FACES database as they were.
- o Call is "ReOpened"

Fund sources for FACES are 50% GR and 50% Federal.

Cost from General Revenue Funds	\$105,750
Cost from Federal Funds	<u>\$105,750</u>
Total Cost	\$211,500

ITSD would be required to complete all system changes in FY12 and do not anticipate additional costs beyond FY12.

LMD:LR:OD (12/02)

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials from the **Jefferson City Police Department, Springfield Police Department, and the Columbia Sheriff's Department** state this proposal does not create a fiscal impact on their respective departments.

Officials from the **Parkway School District** and the **St Louis Public School District** stated this proposal would have no fiscal impact on their respective districts.

Officials from the **Special School District of St Louis County (SSD)** state the only question regarding fiscal impact would be the cost of mediation which is not expected to be material as SSD only has seven schools.

Officials from the **Independence School District** estimated an annual cost of \$50,000, but did not elaborate on what that cost would cover.

DESE assumes there might be some increased time by school employees to meet the provisions of this proposal. **Oversight** assumes, based on responses from school districts, that costs would be minimal and could be absorbed with existing resources. The criminal background check and fingerprint collections permitted in §168.133.9 are at the school districts' expense but are permissive so no cost is assigned.

§160.2100 & 160.2110 - Erin's Law

Officials from the **Department of Corrections, Department of Social Services, Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Attorney General, Department of Public Safety-Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the Missouri House of Representatives** state this portion of the bill will have no fiscal impact on their respective agencies.

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** state their agency could incur expenses related to the duties of the task force; however, those expenses are not expected to be significant.

Officials from the **Missouri Senate** state this bill either has no fiscal impact as it relates to their agency, or minimal costs which can be absorbed by present appropriations.

Officials from the **Office of the Governor** state there should be no added cost to the Governor's Office as a result of this bill. If additional duties are placed on the office related to appointments resulting from other legislation, there may be the need for additional staff resources in the future.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2012 (10 Mo.)	FY 2013	FY 2014
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost - Department of Social Services - Programming expenses (§210.152.3)</u>	<u>(\$105,750)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATE NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>(\$105,750)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
FEDERAL FUNDS			
<u>Cost - Department of Social Services - Programming expenses (§210.152.3)</u>	<u>(\$105,750)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>(\$105,750)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2012 (10 Mo.)	FY 2013	FY 2014
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this bill.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

§210.152

The Department of Social Services - Children's Division may reopen a case for review at the request of any party to the investigation if information is obtained that the investigation was not properly conducted under the provisions of Chapter 210, RSMo, or if new information becomes available. For any case previously investigated by the Children's Division for which there was a finding of "unsubstantiated", the Children's Division must reconduct its investigation one time at the request of the Office of the Child Advocate if the Child Advocate has reasonable suspicion of wrongdoing. The Children's Division must not reopen an investigation if a court of law has entered a final judgment on the matter.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

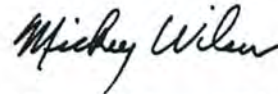
SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Social Services
 Children's Division
 Division of Youth Services
Department of Health and Senior Services
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Department of Public Safety
 Missouri State Highway Patrol
 Office of the Director
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
Office of Secretary of State
 Administrative Rules Division
Office of State Courts Administrator
Office of Administration
 Office of Child Advocate
Department of Corrections
Office of the Governor
Missouri House of Representatives
Missouri Senate
Office of Prosecution Services
Office of State Auditor
Office of State Public Defender

LMD:LR:OD (12/02)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Continued)

Office of Corrections
Department of Mental Health
Office of Attorney General
Local Law Enforcement
 Springfield Police Department
 Jefferson City Police Department
 Boone County Sheriff's Department
School Districts
 Parkway
 St Louis Public School District
 Independence
 Special School District of St Louis County



Mickey Wilson, CPA
Director
June 1, 2011



2013 NY A 661: Sponsor Memo - 01/08/2013

SPONSORS MEMO:

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION

submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Sec 1(e)

RETRIEVE BILL

BILL NUMBER: A661

SPONSOR: Dinowitz(MS)

TITLE OF BILL: An act to amend the education law, in relation to enacting **"Erin Merryn's law"**

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL; Enacts "Erin Merryn's Law" to require provision of instruction to prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse in grades kindergarten through eight.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS: Section 1. Short title "Erin Merryn's law"

Section 2. Legislative findings and intent

Section 3. Amends section 803-a of the education law, as added by chapter 658 of the laws of 1994 to add prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation to instruction students already receive in the prevention of child abduction. The duties of the local boards of education to select curricula and the commissioner to provide technical assistance are unchanged.

Section 4. Effective date.

EXISTING LAW: Section 803-a of the education law currently requires all public school students in grades K-8 to receive instruction designed to prevent child abduction. The law does not mandate how much time must be allocated to the subject, or how frequently the instruction must be given. It must, however, be given under the direct supervision of a regular classroom teacher, even if outside speakers are used. This requirement ensures the quality of the instruction and that the time spent on these important lessons counts toward required classroom time.

JUSTIFICATION: Awareness of the epidemic of child sexual abuse has come a long way since section 803-a was enacted in 1994 and quality school safety programs are already evolving to teach children that abduction by strangers is not the only, or the most common, danger they face. Like other sex crimes, most child sexual abuse is committed by people who know their victims. Trusted acquaintances are most often the perpetrators, followed by family members and then strangers. Updating the language of New York's education requirement to reflect the current understanding of both the sources and warning signs of child predation will help ensure that more children receive practical and age-appropriate instruction that they can incorporate into their daily lives.

As more and more abuse victims of all ages are coming forward to share stories of horrifying abuses, we are regularly reminded of our sacred obligation to prepare the next generation children to meet life's major challenges. Despite greater openness about these crimes, feelings of shame or stigma still keep many victims and witnesses silent. Many young people suffering abuse or exploitation are still unaware of when and from whom to seek help. Concerned parents may not even know about the latest techniques being used by predators to meet and groom their victims through electronic communications, the internet and social media.

Expanding the required instruction under 803-a to encompass child sex abuse and exploitation prevention will require the state education department to make revisions to its technical advisories but it need not require districts to devote any additional time or staffing resources to student safety instruction. With our growing understanding of the many dangers facing our children and the lifelong injuries sexual abuse and exploitation can inflict, the cost of not providing this vital safety information is simply too high.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY; .UP OFF;; 2011-12 - A.8993 - HELD FOR CONSIDERATION IN EDUCATION/S.6182 - PASSED SENATE

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Minimal. The state education department will continue to provide technical assistance to school districts in their development of age-appropriate curricula.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act shall take effect immediately, provided, however, that the amendments to subdivision 1 of section 8-3-a of the education law, made by section 3 of this act, shall take effect July 1, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6088
BILL NUMBER: SB 267

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 11, 2012
BILL AMENDED: Feb 23, 2012

SUBJECT: Education Concerning Child Abuse.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Rogers
FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Behning

BILL STATUS: Enrolled

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Department of Education(DOE), in collaboration with the Department of Child Services and organizations that have expertise in child abuse, including child sexual abuse, to identify or develop model education materials, response policies, and reporting procedures on child abuse, including child sexual abuse, for use by schools for Grade 2 through Grade 5.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The education materials and procedures referred to above have to be made available to schools no later than July 1, 2013. The education materials may include topics such as warning signs of child abuse (including sexual abuse), basic principles of child abuse (including sexual abuse), prevention, and methods of student, teacher, and parental education and outreach.

The model child abuse and child sexual abuse response and reporting policies may include defining how a victim of abuse may seek assistance, how staff personnel may intervene when they suspect or recognize that a student is a victim of abuse, identifying the counseling options and the educational support available to assist a victim of abuse, and outlining how to report such incidents.

Education materials would probably be obtained from local and national organizations. However, the Department would have to organize and distribute the materials to schools. The DOE would have to carry out these provisions within its existing level of resources.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Under the guidance of DOE, schools would have to implement child abuse and child sexual abuse education programs, response, and reporting procedures in Grade 2 through Grade 5. School health education curriculums may have to be modified to include instruction on child abuse, but this can be carried out within the existing level of school resources.

The immediate impact would be the cost of training materials for students and staff. Training for staff could be accomplished during teacher in-service days.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Schools.

Information Sources: American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry website:
<http://www.aacap.org/>

Fiscal Analyst: Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 449

PRINTERS NO. 2248

PRIME SPONSOR: Vance

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 449 amends the Public School Code concerning child abuse recognition and reporting. It would take effect in 180 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation requires school entities and independent contractors of school entities to provide employees who have direct contact with children with mandatory training on child abuse recognition and reporting. The training must address certain topics enumerated in the bill.

School entities and independent contractors may provide the training through the internet or other distance communications systems. Employees must complete a minimum of three hours of training every five years and employees required to undergo continuing professional education will receive credit toward these requirements if the training program has been approved by the Department of Education in consultation with the Department of Public Welfare.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of the legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 18, 2012

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.

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February 2, 2015

The Honorable Berta Gardner
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Bldg. Room 9
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 31 - Sexual Abuse/Assault Programs in the Schools – Erin’s Law

Dear Senator Gardner:

I am writing to express our strong support for SB 31 – Erin’s Law. The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) is a statewide coalition of community based programs that provide direct services and advocacy to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including child sexual abuse victims. In addition to intervention and advocacy, our programs are often called upon by schools to provide outreach and age-appropriate education to their students. Our programs provide these services as resources allow, but there are far more requests than can be met.

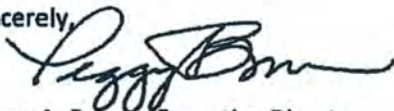
Schools are important partners in the prevention of and education about child sexual abuse. Teachers interact daily with children and their parents and it is critical that they are trained to identify signs of abuse. Children also need the skills to identify dangerous or inappropriate situations and tools they can use to become safe and summon assistance.

For 2013, the Office of Children Services (OCS) reported 2,296 allegations of child sexual abuse directed at 1,118 victims. Forty percent of the victims were Alaska Native. While OCS is still compiling its 2014 data, we unfortunately expect the number to remain near the same. Even one child being sexually abused is one too many and it is the reason that we need to pass Erin’s law this session.

Erin’s law will provide schools with the tools necessary to educate both teachers and children, providing critical information about sexual abuse to raise awareness and protect our children. We know from experience that early prevention and education are the keys to preventing child sexual abuse.

Thank you for bringing forth this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Peggy A. Brown, Executive Director
cc: Lisa Mariotti, Policy Director

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH
Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG
Seward SeaView Community Services Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV

February 12, 2015
Senate Education Committee

Hello my name is Wassiliisia Bennis, I live in the community of Dillingham where I was born and raised. I work at the Bristol Bay Native Association as their Chief Administrative Officer. And served as the former Director of the Wellness program call Yaarui. In Yupik it means story knife. BBNA is a non-profit organization that serves 31 villages in the Bristol Bay region in Southwest Alaska. I am here to support Senate Bill 31: "Erin's Law".

Being 57, I learned I have a voice at age 50 and am able to speak to the truth of child sexual abuse. This has happen to me at 8 years old and recognize it was not my fault 49 years later. So at 50 I was able to see it, hear it, feel it and know what happen to me was wrong. This is not a easy thing to do and when telling my story and working with adult individuals who have been sexual abuse as children there must be a safe place for this to happen. I believe the emotionally and physically, abuse has long-term effects.

Senate Bill 31 will help provide education and training to stop what is happening today to our children. I believe the stated purpose: Empower students and adults to speak up about child sexual abuse and give Alaskans the tools to prevent sexual abuse and break the silence is critical.

Our Wellness Principles for the Bristol Bay Native Association are:

Self-empowerment

Building Capacity within our communities

Changing attitudes, behaviors and belief systems

These guiding principles will help enhance what Senate Bill 31 "Erin's Law" to our region and State.

Again – I completely support what Representative Tarr noted: I ask for your consideration and support for Erin's Law to give Alaskans the tools they need to recognize signs of abuse, to protect themselves and their children, and to escape violence.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you Mr. Chair and Senate Education Committee

Wassiliisia (DeeDee) Bennis
P.O. Box 406
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
dbennis@bbna.com
907-842-5257

My Turn: Alaska is ready for Erin's Law

Posted: January 20, 2015

By DAVID HOLTHOUSE
FOR THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

The cure for Alaska's epidemic of childhood sexual abuse begins with breaking the silence. It's time to give Alaskan kids the tools they need.

When I was a little boy growing up in Anchorage, I knew just what to do if I caught on fire: Stop, drop, and roll. I knew because they taught me in school, just like they later taught me to "Just say no" to drugs. The lesson was mandatory.

What I didn't know is what to do after I was raped when I was 7 years old. I didn't know what to do when the rapist threatened to kill me and my parents if I told anyone.

I didn't know at the time what rape was. I thought it was a freak occurrence, making me a freak. And so I didn't tell. I kept it to myself for 25 years and suffered in silence — the same way thousands upon thousands of Alaskan victims of childhood sexual abuse are suffering now. They are suffering without the tools they need to cope and expose their abusers.

Abuse can be overwhelming; fortunately, the Legislature is close to making real progress in giving Alaskan kids the tools they need to stand up to this abuse. It's time to pass "Erin's Law".

Erin Merryn made a strong impression when she shared her story with legislators last year in Juneau. Erin was sexually abused by a family member as a child. Now a leader in preventing abuse, she is determined to see all 50 states adopt "Erin's Law."

Erin's Law requires school districts to provide age-appropriate curriculum about personal body safety. It also gives teachers, staff and administrators the tools they need to respond properly to allegations of childhood sexual abuse. The Erin's Law catchphrase is: "Get away, tell today."

That message cannot be spread or strengthened enough. To that end, I implore citizens to contact their state representative. Urge them to pass Erin's Law this session.

Nineteen states have passed Erin's Law. Last year, Erin's Law passed in the Alaska Senate but failed to pass in the Alaska House of Representatives. With early bi-partisan support, there's no reason Erin's Law cannot become law this year — abuse is not a freak occurrence.

One in six boys and one in four girls in the U.S. are sexually abused. Nine times out of 10 it's by someone they know.

We teach kids what to do if there is a fire, earthquake or other emergency. We must face the reality that more of these students will be harmed by sexual abuse than by these other threats. Teaching kids about personal body safety is essential to keeping them safe. Let your legislator know that it's time to pass Erin's Law.

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THEATER | THEATER REVIEW

Damaged for Life, and Inexorably Bent on Revenge

'Stalking the Bogeyman,' Based on a Real Victim's Odyssey

NYT Critics' Pick

By NEIL GENZLINGER OCT. 1, 2014

The seats at New World Stages are comfortable enough as theater seats go, but you're not comfortable for a second watching a show currently playing there, "Stalking the Bogeyman," the riveting true story of one man's search for his rapist.

The play is based on an article that the journalist David Holthouse published in 2004 and later adapted into a story for the radio program "This American Life." The trip from page and airwaves to the stage has only deepened it, thanks to several especially fine performances in the production, adapted and directed by Markus Potter.

Roderick Hill plays Mr. Holthouse, who does not mince words when describing what happened to him in 1978, when he was 7. His parents (Kate Levy and Murphy Guyer), newly relocated to Anchorage, are befriended by another couple, here called the Crawfords (Roxanne Hart and John Herrera), and it is their son, a tightly wound 17-year-old jock, who attacks him.

It wasn't "inappropriate touching" or any of the other soft-sounding phrases often associated with this subject, David says: "It was violent, sick, pedophilic rape."

David reaches adulthood still trying to come to grips with the assault and, eventually, resolves to find his attacker (Erik Heger) and kill him. But the play isn't just about revenge; it also explores shame. David keeps the rape from his parents for years. When they finally learn the truth, his mother makes a phone call to the Crawfords that, as rendered by Ms. Levy, is chilling and heartbreaking at the same time.

The scene is breathtaking, yet the play isn't done being harrowing: still to come is a climactic encounter in which David confronts his rapist. The focus here is on Mr. Hill, of course, but it is Mr. Heger's transformation that really makes for an indelible few minutes. His teenage version of the character was maybe a little too energetic. When it comes to this pivotal moment, though, the portrait is utterly convincing. "Stalking the Bogeyman" is at New World Stages, 340 West 50th Street, Clinton; 212-239-6200, telecharge.com.

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