

**HB**

**31**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 31</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
31</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA30</COMM></TARGET>

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

HB 31 would mandate all sexual assault examination kits collected in Alaska be tested within 18 months and tracked through a process developed by the Alaska Department of Public Safety. The last count found around 3,600 untested kits in Alaska. Currently, there is no tracking mechanism or standard protocol for the over 200 law enforcement agencies in Alaska that may receive untested kits.

Alaska rates consistently at the top of sexual assault and domestic violence cases in the country, many of the perpetrators remain untried by the criminal justice system. This bill endeavors to eliminate that injustice. When tested, DNA evidence contained by rape kits can be an **incredibly powerful tool to solve and prevent crime**. It can identify an unknown assailant and confirm the presence of a known suspect. It can affirm the survivor's account of the attack and discredit the suspect. It can connect the suspect to other crime scenes and identify serial offenders. It can exonerate the wrongly convicted or accused.

The pre-filed bill requires all kits be tested within 18 months and creates a standard protocol for 200 law enforcement agencies. HB 31 will support the effort to maintain DNA and other evidence that can bring criminals to justice. A recent case in Alaska shows the power of collecting DNA information.

House Bill 31 calls for development of a statewide protocol for processing of rape kits to be used by the 200 law enforcement agencies statewide and a new inventory of untested rape kits in Alaska by September 1, 2017. The bill also stipulates that the Department of Public Safety transmit a report on the issue to the Alaska Legislature by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The report must contain the exact number of untested sexual assault examination kits and a plan for addressing the backlog of untested kits.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 31  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB031-DPS-LAB-01-28-17  
Title: SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS  
Sponsor: TARR  
Requester: (H) STA

Department: Department of Public Safety  
Appropriation: Statewide Support  
Allocation: Laboratory Services  
OMB Component Number: 527

**Expenditures/Revenues**

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

	FY2018 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2018 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	107.9		107.9	107.9	107.9	107.9	107.9	107.9
Travel								
Services	96.9		96.9	96.9	96.9	96.9	96.9	96.9
Commodities	60.0		60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>264.8</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

1005 GF/Prgm (DGF)	264.8		264.8	264.8	264.8	264.8	264.8	264.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>264.8</b>

**Positions**

Full-time	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Part-time								
Temporary								

**Change in Revenues**

None								
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost:** 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost:** 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

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

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:**

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: Kelly Howell	Phone: (907)465-4336
Division: Administrative Services	Date: 01/28/2017 08:00 AM
Approved By: Walt Monegan	Date: 01/28/17
Agency: Public Safety	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 31

**Analysis**

This legislation amends AS 44.41 by adding a new section requiring the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to develop for use by all law enforcement in the state a tracking system for sexual assault examination kits, and a protocol for the collection and processing of sexual assault examination kits.

DPS has identified the following costs for the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory to effectively implement these new requirements:

For the tracking system, DPS has identified a software solution that provides both tracking and reporting capabilities for sexual assault examination kits throughout their life cycle from distribution to reporting results of analysis. The annual cost of this software is \$96,900.

DPS assumes the protocol for processing of sexual assault kits would require the analysis of every kit. This is estimated to result in a 20 percent increase - 70 requests per year - in the number of kits needing analysis. To address this increase, one additional Forensic Scientist III position would be needed as well as \$60,000 in reagents/consumables associated with analysis.

This legislation also requires DPS to prepare and transmit a report to the legislature that contains, among other things, a plan for addressing the backlog of untested sexual assault kits (approximately 3,000). An additional amount of funding would be needed to timely address the analysis of backlogged untested sexual assault kits through outsourcing at a cost of \$1,500 per kit. These costs are not included in this analysis.

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

2/8/17  
Finance

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: January 18, 2017

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: February 7, 2017

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 31

**HOUSE BILL NO. 31**

"An Act requiring the Department of Public Safety to develop a tracking system and collection and processing protocol for sexual assault examination kits; requiring law enforcement agencies to send sexual assault examination kits for testing within 18 months after collection; requiring an inventory and reports on untested sexual assault examination kits; and providing for an effective date."

**HB 31 SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS**

Recommends it be replaced with  HCS or  CS for \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  
For Senate Bills with new title:  Technical Title  New Title: HCR \_\_\_\_\_  Same Title  New Title

- attach amendments
- add new referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- Letter of Intent \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

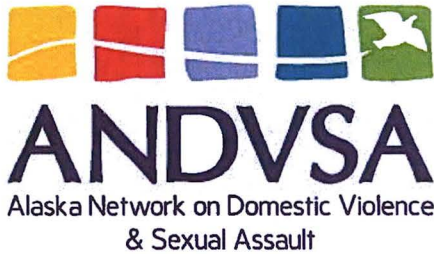
- List of Abbrev for Depts.:
- ADM
  - AJS
  - CED
  - COR
  - EED
  - DEC
  - DFG
  - GOV
  - DHS
  - LWF
  - LAW
  - LEG
  - MVA
  - DNR
  - DPS
  - REV
  - DOT
  - UA

<b>NEW FISCAL NOTES</b>				
<small>*FN# is assigned by Chief Clerk's Office</small>				
*FN#	List by Dept(s):	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
1	DPS	✓		

<b>PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES</b>				
FN#	List by Dept(s):	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

4

<u>Signing with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
	Wool	✓			
	LeDoux	✓			
	Birch	<del>✓</del>			
Chair:	Kreiss-Tomkins	X			
Chair:					



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**Anchorage Office**  
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Phone: (907) 297-2860  
Fax: (907) 279-2451

January 26, 2017

**Letter in Support of HB 31 (Sexual Assault Examination Kits)**

Dear Legislators:

Greetings to you on this fine day. The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) offers its full support of HB 31 (Sexual Assault Examination Kits) – an act that directly impacts victims of sexual assault in several ways.

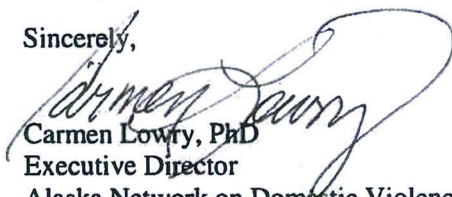
As service providers, our member agencies offer first-response sexual assault advocacy – many as a member of a Sexual Assault Response Team, to support victims of sexual assault. Sexual assault examination kit testing, as a part of this response process, creates opportunities for victims to immediately exert control over the response to her/his assault. When kits are collected but not tested efficiently, however, the process gives victims a false sense of evidence-gathering. This is grossly unfair to victims and their families.

Additionally, correctly administered sexual assault examination kits are critical in obtaining conviction. Legislative research has reported, though, that law enforcement – the first actor in the process of obtaining conviction – sometimes pursues testing only in cases with high likelihood of being solved, or when the perpetrator is unknown to the victim. Either way, we cannot continue with the prioritization of various sexual assault cases on any grounds. For victims and advocates, every sexual assault case is a priority.

The ANDVSA - the member programs, victims, and survivors who constitute our Network - fully supports Representative Tarr's proposal to streamline a system for more efficient testing of kits. We also support her proposal to identify the exact quantity of untested kits this year, so that victims' evidence does not continue to be buried, and so that relevant officials can understand and respond to the full scope of the backlog. We wholeheartedly agree with the governor's recent comments around sexual assault examination kit testing: "Justice delayed is justice denied."

We urge you to consider the effects that this legislation has on victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and support HB 31. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (907) 586-6560 or [clowry@andvsa.org](mailto:clowry@andvsa.org). Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Carmen Lowry, PhD  
Executive Director  
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Cc: ANDVSA member programs

**Member Programs**

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR 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 Utqiagvik AWIC Valdez AVV

## Celeste Novak

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**From:** Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** FW: HB 31 - Support for rape kit reform

Rep. Tarr:

Natasha Alexenko and I are contacting you in support of your bill (HB 31) to establish a rape kit tracking system for Alaska, along with other rape kit reform. We'd love to speak with you some time to discuss your legislation and what additional support we can provide to you. Is there a time we might set up a call?

In the meantime, you may be interested in learning about the federal grant called SAFE-ITR (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam – Inventory, Tracking, Reporting) which can be used to establish rape kit tracking systems. Of course, state-based funding is always best, but...the federal grant could help with fiscal note considerations. The FY 2016 solicitation can be found at <https://nij.gov/funding/Documents/solicitations/NIJ-2016-9088.pdf> -- the FY 2017 solicitation has not yet been released.

Thank you for introducing this very important legislation, and we look forward to speaking with you soon.

*Lisa H. Hurst*

**Sr. Government Affairs Consultant**



202-251-8978

[lhurst@gth-gov.com](mailto:lhurst@gth-gov.com)

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Best of Alaska

Crime & Courts

## Anchorage 'serial rapist' sentenced to 70 years in prison

✍ Author: [Chris Klint](#) ⌚ Updated: January 9 📅 Published January 9



*Clifford Lee looks at judge Paul Olson during sentencing proceedings Friday, Jan. 6, 2017, at the Nesbett Courthouse in Anchorage. As part of a plea agreement, Lee pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual assault, although he admitted to six other sexual assaults.*

A man Anchorage police called a "serial rapist" after his arrest in a five-week string of 2014 attacks was ordered to serve 70 years in prison Monday under a plea agreement in which he admitted raping eight women dating back to 2001.

Prosecutors said Clifford K.I. Lee, 37, was sentenced to a total of 90 years with 20 suspended by Anchorage Superior Court Judge Paul Olson, on two counts of first-degree sexual assault. Lee originally was charged with nine sexual-assault counts, but prosecutors dismissed seven in an August deal they said ensured that victims "do not have to relive the trauma Lee inflicted on them" at trial.

As the two-day hearing began Friday, Lee sat with public defender Evan Chyun, remaining silent with his eyes downcast. After Olson heard recorded statements from victims and sentencing concerns from both sides Friday, the hearing concluded Monday with Olson handing down his sentence.

The first of four rapes and one attempted rape that led to Lee's 2014 arrest occurred in late June of that year, according to police. Investigators later said Lee targeted intoxicated women walking alone in downtown and Midtown Anchorage.

After picking up women in his black 2001 Chevrolet Tahoe and driving to South Anchorage, police said, Lee used death threats and a stun gun to coerce them into compliance — although one woman escaped him.

ADN recommends



Alaska-News

Police: Man who made fun of his girlfriend killed by her son



Alaska-News

Shooting of teenager killed on Government Hill captured on surveillance video



Alaska-News

Fairbanks man arrested on child sex abuse charges; troopers seek other victims

Lee was pulled over and arrested in Spenard on July 31, 2014, hours after he was identified in a photo lineup by the last of the four rape victims. Police subsequently **called for any other women victimized by Lee to come forward**, and DNA testing at the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory in Anchorage linked Lee to unsolved rapes in 2001 and 2005 involving the same methods as the 2014 cases.

Assistant district attorney Jenna Gruenstein sought a total sentence of 99 years for Lee, arguing Friday that he systematically raped disadvantaged women.

Anchorage police Detective Mikell Von Dolteren, an investigator on the case, testified for the prosecution that Lee was intelligent and charismatic in interviews. Getting him to confirm specific details of the rapes was like "pulling teeth," however, until he was directly confronted with physical evidence.

"It became fairly obvious, you know, that he was targeting women that were more vulnerable," Von Dolteren said. "They had a smaller stature, were older, had a problem with alcohol or drugs or both — some kind of diminished capacity that would make them more pliant or more controllable."

Chyun sought a 47-year sentence on the two counts with some time to be served concurrently, saying Lee still wouldn't be released until 2049 at the age of 70. He also pointed out that Lee voluntarily offered in the agreement to accept greater monitoring of his activities after his release.

"The state's proposal, which is basically to keep Mr. Lee in jail for the rest of his life, completely ignores rehabilitation," Chyun said. "Mr. Lee has made a series of mistakes — he's trying to atone for them, he's made them over the course of 35 years."

Olson's sentence calls for Lee to consecutively serve 50-year and 40-year terms, with 10 years of each term suspended. Lee had faced a maximum sentence of 188 years in the case.

*Loren Holmes contributed information to this story.*

About this author

**Chris Klint**

Chris Klint, a lifelong Alaskan and UAA graduate, covers breaking news in the mornings. He spent more than five years at Anchorage TV station KTUU before joining Alaska Dispatch News.

43 Comments 

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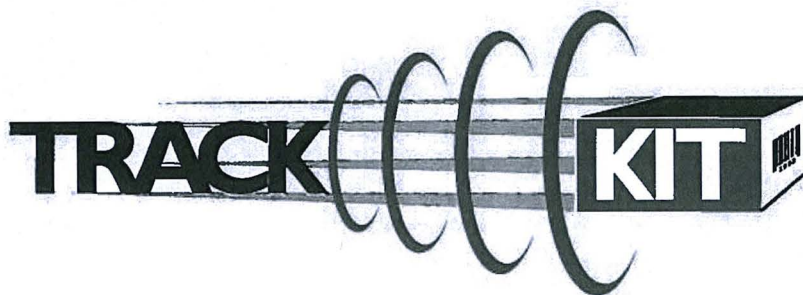
LowerMyBills

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## Sexual Assault Kit Tracking and Inventory Management

Improve transparency, meet performance deadlines and better serve survivors

### Benefits

- Keep all stakeholders informed
- Meet testing and notification deadlines
- Improve transparency and accountability
- Provide survivors access to localized resources
- Prevent lost kits
- Better manage workloads
- Save money by managing inventory
- Reduce errors
- Never run out of kits
- Prevent use of expired kits
- Visualize performance metrics in dashboards
- Easily deploy anywhere

You are under pressure to meet delivery and disclosure deadlines for sexual assault kit processing. You need to track every rape kit from the moment it is collected at the medical facility to the time that DNA laboratory results are reported and made available to investigators and survivors. You must keep key people informed, including medical facility staff, law enforcement officers, prosecuting attorneys and DNA laboratory staff. Most importantly, you are obligated to confidentially let the survivor know that their kit has been processed on time and the results.

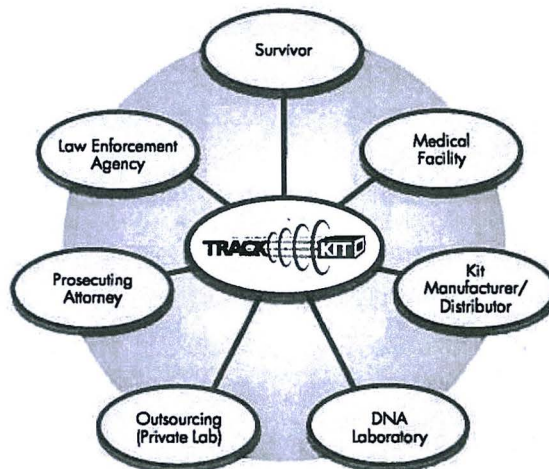
Track-Kit Sexual Assault Tracking software was created to help you easily meet these obligations across your jurisdiction. It provides start-to-finish kit and inventory tracking to deliver accountability, transparency and information sharing among all stakeholders.

#### Know where kits are and when they should arrive

Using a secure, easy-to-use web-based portal specifically designed for their role, each user can view the list of kits in their custody or in transit. Users are alerted if a kit is not received by the specified deadline. If a kit is late, the user can look up where it was last located. No more surprises. No more lost kits. No more missed deadlines.

#### Better data with less effort

Users capture critical kit data at every step using a bar code scanner; if one is not available, information can be manually entered.



#### Track kits outsourced to private labs

Even if you send some or all of your kits for processing to a private lab, you can track their location and status, and generate reports on completion and turnaround performance. The private lab and submitting agency (LEA or laboratory) is able to view how many kits are in transit to the private lab and track all kits in their possession and in transit back to the agency following processing, and generate reports. Every party knows the location and status of all their jurisdiction's kits.

#### Never run out of kits

Medical facility staff can easily check inventory and, where authorized, place orders through Track-Kit to maintain an adequate supply. Staff can be notified when kits are about to expire so that they can be destroyed, if that is the policy. Authorized users can reconcile kit orders, inventory, distribution, submission, receipt and destruction, to maximize efficiency, save money and ensure that usable kits are always where they need to be.

#### Easily deploy to thousands of users

How many people will need to track kits across your region? Track-Kit is easily deployed to an unrestricted number of users. It is browser-based and intuitive so that users are productive right away.

#### Import your existing kits

You would like to import and track your existing kits into Track-Kit? No problem. STACS DNA will work with you to determine the required information and load your data as part of the initial system setup.

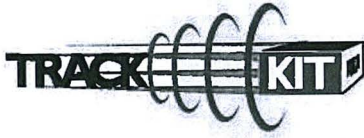
#### Integrate DNA processing results

Many forensic DNA laboratories use STACS-CW sample processing software to perform male screening and process DNA evidence including sexual assault kits. Some of the results generated by STACS-CW may be required by law to be made available to sexual assault survivors and agencies. Track-Kit seamlessly integrates with STACS-CW so that results are transmitted directly from the lab to the required stakeholders via their portal, reducing lab staff's data entry workload.

Your DNA laboratory doesn't use STACS-CW to process DNA samples? No problem. Ask us about the Track-Kit open API used to integrate Track-Kit with your LIMS. STACS DNA has tremendous experience delivering LIMS integration services to all our DNA laboratory customers.

#### Data is protected end-to-end

Track-Kit ensures that your data is secure. Each user is granted access rights appropriate for their role, and must log in to Track-Kit for access. Cloud-based implementations employ secure storage, multi-factor authentication, encryption, key management and threat management protections.



# Sexual Assault Kit Tracking and Inventory Management

## About STACS DNA

STACS DNA helps forensics agencies meet performance and accountability expectations. Our software solutions track samples both inside and outside the laboratory, to increase productivity, reduce errors, save money, and improve information quality and sharing.

We've been working closely with the DNA community since 2000. Our customers include the FBI, RCMP, U.S. Army and the largest state DNA laboratories in North America.

### For more information:

Contact us:

#### United States

STACS DNA Inc.  
10605 Barn Swallow Court  
Fairfax, VA 22032

#### Canada/International

STACS DNA Inc.  
2255 St Laurent Blvd., Suite 206  
Ottawa, ON K1G 4K3

[www.stacsdna.com](http://www.stacsdna.com)

Toll-free: 1.877.774.7822



### Track-Kit Portals

Users can do the following via their secure, password-protected web portal:

#### Survivor Portal

- Access the portal via mobile device or computer
- Opt-in to email or text message notifications
- View processing status
- Access survivor-based, location-specific resources such as websites, documents and contact information
- Access information in multiple languages (as supported)

#### Medical Facility Portal

- Capture collected kit information, including the bar code and by whom/where/when the kit was collected
- Specify if the survivor wishes to inform the law enforcement agency and submit their kit
- Notify the lab that the kit has been collected
- Notify law enforcement that the kit is ready for pickup
- Check inventory, order new kits, receive kits and destroy expired kits
- Generate kit collection reports

#### Law Enforcement Agency Portal

- Receive notifications that kits are ready for pick-up from a medical facility and/or DNA laboratory
- Record the date/time kits are picked up and delivered to/from the DNA laboratory
- Transfer kits to another agency
- Assign investigators and case numbers to kits
- Review lab conclusions and (optionally) release conclusion details to the survivor
- Generate reports related to kits that have been picked up
- Generate the manifest of kits sent to the private lab
- View the list of kits outsourced to a private lab, and their delivery, receipt and completion status
- Generate reports related to kits outsourced to private labs, their completion status and turnaround time

#### Prosecuting Attorney Portal

- Assign jurisdictions to prosecutors
- Review information on kits assigned to jurisdictions' agencies

#### DNA Laboratory Portal

- View the list of collected kits and those currently en route to the lab
- View the list of overdue kits and where they were collected
- Record the date/time kits are received from law enforcement agencies
- Document user-definable conclusions for each kit, such as profile obtained, CODIS hit, screening completed and case completed
- Receive notifications when a kit is nearing its processing deadline
- Generate notifications for kits ready to be picked up by an agency
- Generate reports on turnaround time and backlog
- View the list of kits outsourced to a private lab, and their delivery, receipt and completion status
- Generate reports related to kits outsourced to private labs, their completion status and turnaround time

#### Outsourcing (Private Lab) Portal

- View the list of kits in transit to the private lab
- View the list of kits received by the private lab
- View the list of kits completed by the private lab and not yet received by an agency
- Generate reports on the kits received, completed and turnaround time

#### Kit Distributor Portal

- Receive kits from the manufacturer
- Manage inventory
- Receive orders and ship kits to medical facilities and agencies
- Generate order reports

#### Policy Center Portal—used to set the rules, configuration, roles and permissions for the system

- Set thresholds for notification
- Define portal roles and manage security, access rights and user accounts
- Manage kit conclusions that can be made available to survivors
- Provide survivors access to resources based on their location and in their language
- Define performance metrics displayed in each portal-specific dashboard
- Post and manage bulletin board entries for each portal
- Manage kit inventory—reconcile kit orders, inventory, distribution, submission, receipt and destruction
- Generate reports on user activity, auditing records and jurisdiction-wide kit inventory



# The League of Women Voters

A Voice For Citizens, A Force For Change

P.O. Box 90079, Anchorage, AK 99509-0079

January 26, 2017

## OFFICERS

Dear Representative Tarr:

### President

Pat Redmond

### Vice-President

Judy Andree

### Past President

Marianne Mills

### Treasurer

Carol Dickinson

### Secretary

Gail Knobf

## DIRECTORS

Hetty Barthel

Diane Mathisen

Lois Pillifant

Phyllis Tugman-Alexander

The League of Women Voters Alaska (LWVAK) supports the passage into law of HB 31, Sexual Assault Examination Kits. LWVAK recognizes the importance of a coordinated effort by law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and the medical community when it comes to dealing with sexual assault. In addition, the League of Women Voters United States (LWVUS) endorsed the Violence Against Women Act and asks that an emphasis be put on violence prevention. Sexual assault is a violent act that leaves its victims traumatized, sometimes for decades or longer. Any steps taken to enhance the collection of data regarding sexual assault and the coordination between police, prosecutors, and judges will be a step toward the prevention of sexual violence.

HB 31 requires the State to establish a tracking system as well as collection and processing protocols so that timely testing of sexual assault kits can occur. In addition, HB 31 requires that police departments in the State of Alaska submit sexual assault kits within 18 months of collection. Adding the data from the testing of a sexual assault kit to a larger database can help apprehend serial rapists and result in justice for the victim as well as the removal of a dangerous person from the opportunity to create another victim.

The large backlog of kits that have never been submitted for testing and, therefore, never tested demands a standardized method of handling this evidence. An inventory must be made of untested kits and an ongoing effort established to see that the results of these kits are entered into a statewide database. The measures required in HB 31 can assist in preventing violence against women and men. Passing these measures into law is a responsible step in the right direction.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

  
Pat Redmond, President

League of Woman Voters Alaska



January 30, 2017

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in regard to HB 31 which requires reporting of untested rape kits in Alaska and wanted to share with you Tennessee's experience in addressing our rape kit backlog.

In response to discovering that Memphis, Tennessee had more than 12,000 untested rape kits, some of which were more than 30 years old, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted legislation requiring all law enforcement agencies to inventory and report their rape kit backlogs to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) who was then required to report the data to the General Assembly. The bill had no fiscal note and was seen as the first step in developing policies to address the backlog. While Memphis had subsequently received additional state, federal, and private funds to help address their backlog, results of the audit found that of the 9,062 untested kits statewide, 7,121 of those kits were from Memphis.

Conducting the audit and subsequent testing of rape kits has lead to the arrest of serial rapists, exposed the lack of funding for laboratories, and identified the need to develop consistent policies for the investigation of sexual assault crimes.

In 2015, the Tennessee General Assembly passed a law which is having a huge impact on improving law enforcement's response to victims of sexual assault. The new law sets up procedures for collection and storage of rape kits and requires law enforcement agencies to submit kits to TBI within 60 days of receipt. In cases where the victim has consented to the rape exam, but has not made a police report, the rape kit is coded with a number rather than a name and referred to as a "hold kit". Law enforcement are required to store the "hold kit" for a minimum of 3 years or until the victim has made a police report. Once the report is made, the kit is submitted to TBI for testing within 60 days. The law also required the Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council (DVSCC) to develop the Model Policy on Sexually Oriented Crimes which sets the procedures for law enforcement investigating reports of sexual assault. All law enforcement agencies were required to adopt the model policy or one comparable on January 1, 2016.

Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information.

Best Regards,

Kathy Walsh  
Executive Director

2 International Plaza Drive | Suite 425 | Nashville, Tennessee 37217  
615/386-9406 | Fax: 615/383-2967 | Toll Free: 800/289-9018  
tncoalition.org | tnblue.org | preventTN.com  
*A Community Shares Agency*



# Community United For Safety And Protection

Advocating Safety and Protection for all people in Alaska's Sex Trade  
[www.sextraffickingalaska.com](http://www.sextraffickingalaska.com).

Support for HB 31

January 30, 2017

Dear Representative Tarr,

Thank you so much for taking the leadership in stemming the epidemic of sexual assaults in Alaska with HB 31. We would like to extend our full support for this important House Bill. Perpetrators must know that they are going to suffer consequences for their heinous crimes because rape kits are no longer going to be hidden away as the lowest priorities.

Alaska will never stop being the rape capital of the United States as long as we don't even have rape kits prioritized to process and then match results with state and national data bases to hold accountable those responsible in a timely manner. In 2014, Detroit identified 188 serial rapists by processing just 1,600 rape kits out of their much larger backlog.

In December of 2016, Community United for Safety and Protection had Hays Research firm in Anchorage conduct a survey of 904 Alaskan voters' priorities. Processing Alaska's backlog of rape kits was a close second priority to investigating cases of murdered and missing sex workers, with 36% listing it as their first priority and 37% listing it as their second priority (see the results of that question represented in graph form below).

Clearly, Alaskans take this issue seriously and are in agreement with the passing of HB 31.

Thank you,

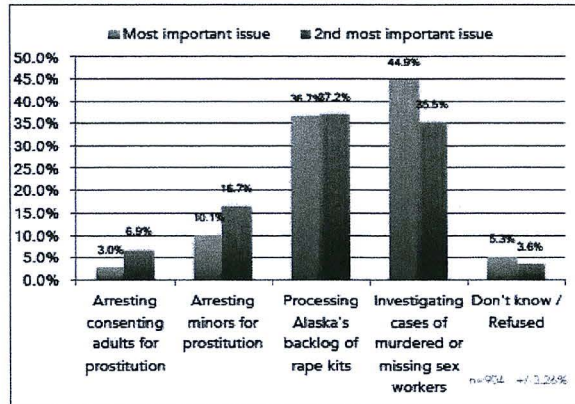
Maxine Doogan  
 Kat Elroy  
 Terra Burns  
 Crystal Godby  
 Community United for Safety and Protection  
[www.sextraffickingalaska.com](http://www.sextraffickingalaska.com)

**Question 2 - Most important issues being dealt with in Alaska (from list)**

I am going to read you four issues. Please tell me which one is the most important issue to you. From the same list, please tell me which is the second most important issue to you.

**Analysis**

Additional cross tabulations for Question 2 can be found on pages 16-17 of this report.



**Most important issue**

Arresting consenting adults for prostitution	3.0%
Arresting minors for prostitution	10.1%
Processing Alaska's backlog of rape kits	36.7%
Investigating cases of murdered or missing sex workers	44.9%
Don't know / Refused	5.3%

**2nd most important issue**

Arresting consenting adults for prostitution	6.9%
Arresting minors for prostitution	16.7%
Processing Alaska's backlog of rape kits	37.2%
Investigating cases of murdered or missing sex workers	35.5%
Don't know / Refused	3.6%



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Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii

Re: HB 31 (Sexual Assault Examination Kits)

January, 31 2017

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest & Hawaii (PPVNH), I am writing to express our strong support of HB 31, a bill that will directly impact survivors of sexual assault in our state who are waiting for closure and justice.

In a state with tragically high sexual assault rates, it is crucial that all sexual assault examination kits are collected, submitted, and tested in a timely manner, when requested by a survivor. Leaving thousands of sexual assault examination kits untested not only allows sexual predators to evade justice and re-offend, but also leaves thousands of sexual assault survivors without closure.

HB 31 would begin the process of addressing this backlog. Today, Alaska does not track or monitor how many sexual assault examination kits have been at testing facilities or in police storage. States and cities that have taken steps to address the backlog in their forensics facilities are seeing significant gains for their efforts. Of the tens of thousands of old kits finally being analyzed throughout the country, cities and states have been identifying perpetrators in the national DNA database and are steadily making gains in indicting and prosecuting those individuals. Alaska needs to follow their lead.

Every day that a kit goes untested is one more day that a sexual assault survivor goes without closure or justice. PPVNH supports Representative Tarr and her leadership on this issue. We urge you to consider the effects this legislation will have on sexual assault survivors and to support HB 31.

Thank you,

Alyson Currey, MSW  
Legislative Liaison  
Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest & Hawaii

# Alaska Women's Lobby

Defending and advancing the rights and needs of women, children and families in Alaska since 1981

## **HB 31: Sexual Assault Examination Kits**

January 2017

The Alaska Women's Lobby, with steering committees in Fairbanks and Juneau as well as members across the state, supports the sexual assault response team (SART) process for handling sexual assault cases reported to law enforcement. SARTs integrate the investigative, medical and advocacy processes in a sexual assault response into a seamless system so that victims of these heinous crimes are not further traumatized when reporting what has happened to them.

An integral part of SART is that of gathering physical evidence through the use of a sexual assault examination kit. Kits are toolboxes of evidence gathering procedures and materials the use of which allow for consistent collection of evidence regardless of where the crime took place.

Whether a victim reports to law enforcement, goes to an emergency department of a hospital or goes to a clinic, or whether he or she calls an advocacy crisis line, in communities with trained SARTs, the team is called together. Options are explained to the person reporting so an informed decision can be made about next steps, if any, in the reporting process. If the person would like evidence of the assault to be gathered and preserved, then a sexual assault exam kit will be used.

One of the devastating effects of a sexual assault is the loss of control one feels and it takes time to work through that feeling. Respecting the rights of the person who has been assaulted, including decision-making about what happens from the point of the assault forward, is critical to healing. Some people want evidence gathered; some people want a medical exam to ensure injuries are treated; some people want both; and, some people don't want either.

If a kit is used, some people are comfortable with it being tested immediately so the evidence may help in furthering the investigation and some people want the evidence gathered but are not ready to take the next steps with the criminal justice system so only want the kit used but not processed. Some people want to remain anonymous but are willing to have the evidence processed.

As can be surmised, the variables to be considered in ensuring all kits are treated in the appropriate manner make for a complex solution. A cohesive tracking system managed by the Department of Public Safety for these kits, some used and held for future processing; some used and processed for current investigations; some used with a known victim and some used with anonymous victims; is a good measure to take in assuring justice for each person who chooses to have an exam whatever the choices surrounding the use of the kits are.

PO Box 20891, Juneau, AK 99802 \* [akwomenslobby@gmail.com](mailto:akwomenslobby@gmail.com)

## Rep. Geran Tarr

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**From:** Rep. Les Gara  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:23 AM  
**To:** K Griffin  
**Cc:** Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Chris Tuck  
**Subject:** Re: HB 31

Thanks to rep Tarr for taking the lead on this. Les

Sent from my iPhone Les Gara

On Jan 30, 2017, at 11:51 PM, K Griffin <[23kgriffin@gmail.com](mailto:23kgriffin@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello,

Thank you for working to get this important legislation written and moving forward. This is such an important issue for so many women in our state. There are too many rape kids that have been left on shelves. One is too many. Too many women were abandoned and their attackers went on with their lives. One is too many. Testing kits within 18 months will greatly help expedite the needed arrests (especially of those repeat offenders) and convictions to help many women find a bit of closure of that episode in their life.

Thank you kindly,  
Karyn Griffin  
Soldotna

<http://www.legis.state.ak.us/PDF/30/Bills/HB0031A.PDF>

<WebPage.pdf>

## Rep. Geran Tarr

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**From:** R H <salmonchowder@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:09 AM  
**To:** Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** in support of HB 31

Dear Representative Tarr,

I just heard through the grapevine that there's a bill to do something about the state's backlog of rape kits, and I just wanted to say I'm all for that. That's the sort of thing I read about and wonder that we let those just sit around when processing and testing could substantially bring about justice for victims, help catch offenders before they rape again, and generally show that our society does actually consider sexual assault to be a serious crime. This bill sounds like a step in the right direction.

Thank you,  
Ruth Hulbert  
Palmer, AK

## Rep. Geran Tarr

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**From:** K Griffin <23kgriffin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 11:51 PM  
**To:** Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Chris Tuck  
**Subject:** HB 31  
**Attachments:** WebPage.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Hello,

Thank you for working to get this important legislation written and moving forward. This is such an important issue for so many women in our state. There are too many rape kits that have been left on shelves. One is too many. Too many women were abandoned and their attackers went on with their lives. One is too many. Testing kits within 18 months will greatly help expedite the needed arrests (especially of those repeat offenders) and convictions to help many women find a bit of closure of that episode in their life.

Thank you kindly,  
Karyn Griffin  
Soldotna

<http://www.legis.state.ak.us/PDF/30/Bills/HB0031A.PDF>

## Rep. Geran Tarr

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**From:** Taralyn <taralyndicus@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 11:24 PM  
**To:** Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** Support House Bill 31

Dear Representative Tarr,

I'm writing to you as a concerned and compassionate Alaskan citizen and survivor of sexual assault and rape, asking that you please support HB 31.

Rape changes your entire life. The recovery process is difficult and varies from person to person. Some are never able to recover at all. Please help victims of rape get through this process as quickly as possible, by requiring that all rape kits be tested within 18 months. Don't force these victims to relive their trauma for any longer than is necessary. Let them have a chance to heal, and move on.

Thank you for taking the time to read what I had to say. It was difficult to have to revisit my own trauma in order to write this email, but I felt it was important to speak up for others like me, because things have to change. There are too many of us. And there wouldn't be as many if rape kits were tested in a timely manner.

Sincerely,  
Taralyn Dicus  
Palmer, Alaska

## Rep. Geran Tarr

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**From:** Maio Nishkian <Maio.Nish@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 11:23 PM  
**To:** Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** House Bill 31

I support House Bill 31, I support justice for rape victims by requiring that all rape kits be tested within 18 months.

Please support this bill for Alaskans and for justice.

><(((??>

Maio Nishkian  
Palmer, AK 99645

## Rep. Geran Tarr

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**From:** Contessa Gossett <dodgermessacam5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 11:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** HB31

Hello Representative Tarr, please support the passing of HB31 so rape kits will have to be tested within 18months.

This is vital for criminal investigations and prosecutions. Victims need to be represented through proper criminal investigations. Thank You, Contessa Shade Gossett, Palmer Alaska.

Sent from Hollywood Kid

**Rep. Geran Tarr**

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**From:** Chelsea Lindquist <chelserin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 10:52 PM  
**To:** Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** HB 31

I am writing in support of House Bill 31, that will require justice for rape victims by requiring that all rape kits be tested within 18 months.

Thank you,  
Chelsea Vukovich

## Rep. Geran Tarr

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**From:** Dana Dardis <ddardis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 8:57 PM  
**To:** Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** House Bill 31

I support house bill 31.

Dana Dardis  
2422 Telequana Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99517  
(907) 868-3883