



25th ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 33

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Bill Version: SB 33

Sponsor: Senator Con Bunde

Short Title: DNA FROM PERSONS CHARGED WITH FELONIES

Summary:

- Allows the Department of Public Safety to collect a DNA sample from a person charged with a crime against another person, or a felony under Alaska's criminal code for inclusion in the DNA registration system.
- Requires the department to destroy the sample upon receipt of a court order that the charge has been dismissed.

Benefits:

- Provides valuable information to help law enforcement officials solve crimes.
- Protects defendants' rights by requiring the destruction of the DNA sample if the person is acquitted.

Background:

- Currently Alaska's law enforcement officials may only collect DNA samples from people convicted of a felony, or a crime against a person. This restriction limits the ability to solve crimes as expeditiously or as efficiently as possible. Often the suspects arrested are also associated with other unsolved crimes, and collecting their DNA upon arrest could give law enforcement important leads. It should be noted that federal law requires the Department of Public Safety to remove the DNA sample from the database if the suspect is not convicted. This protects the innocent and clears the record of those who are erroneously accused.