



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

News From The House Majority

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House Passes Changes To DUI Law

(JUNEAU) – The Alaska House of Representatives passed HB 342, a bill that would adjust DUI penalties to fit the severity of the offense in a more logical and effective way. The bill, sponsored by Representative Carl Gatto (R-Palmer), passed the House unanimously.

HB 342 sets up tiered sanctions based on blood alcohol content, mandates usage of ignition interlock devices for certain individuals, supports the use of both Wellness and Therapeutic Courts, changes Alaska's look-back provision, and remodels the Limited Driver's license provision through use of ignition interlocks.

Representative Gatto said, "I believe this bill will make a difference in ensuring the safety of all Alaskans as well as make the punishment fit the crime when it comes to DUI offenses." He went on to say, "Ignition interlock devices are proven to reduce recidivism. My goal is to get the most hardcore drunk drivers into a program that works, and this bill does just that."

HB 175, another bill dealing with DUI issues was combined with HB 342 earlier this session. HB 175 was sponsored by Representative Norman Rokeberg (R-Anchorage). Representative Rokeberg was pleased with the support the bill received on the House floor. "This bill will make Alaska's DUI laws fairer, while still effectively punishing habitual offenders. I am especially pleased with the provisions that give more authority to Wellness and Therapeutic Courts to issue limited driver's licenses. These courts not only address underlying problems with the offenders, but help reduce recidivism which is a positive step."

The bill now moves to the Alaska State Senate for consideration.

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