

SUPPORT SB 91 AND HB 205



SAVE MONEY | REDUCE RECIDIVISM | FEED MORE ALASKANS

SB 91 and HB 205 propose a number of reforms to address the Department of Corrections biggest cost drivers: an increased length of prison sentences for non-violent offenders, probation violators, and pre-trial offenders. An important provision in this bill removes the lifetime ban prohibiting anyone convicted of a drug felony from receiving SNAP (food stamps).

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S)
COGHILL, Ellis, McGuire,
Costello, Bishop, Micciche;
REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MILLETT, LeDoux, Tarr

➤ Alaska is 1 of only 7 states who still uphold the lifetime SNAP ban for drug felons. Texas and Alabama are the most recent states to remove their full ban on SNAP.

➤ Without the support of the SNAP program, formerly incarcerated Alaskans are left hungry and desperate - a combination that makes recidivism far more likely and post-prison recovery much harder.

➤ The federal government funds 100% of SNAP benefits; the State of Alaska will incur little to no cost in implementing this provision, and would ultimately save money by reducing incarceration costs:



\$5.76/DAY
for an individual from
federal SNAP (food stamp)
program



\$158.67/DAY*
Daily cost for an
incarcerated individual
in Alaska's prison system

➤ The costs of failed reentry are ultimately a waste of public resources. 377 convicted non-violent felons are released into Alaskan communities every month. Of those 377 individuals released, 63% will be back in the system costing the state \$37,763.46 per day.

39%

of inmates are charged
with non-violent Class C
Drug Felonies

101%

capacity at which Alaska's
Department of Corrections
facilities is operating

\$300 MILLION*

Cost of a new prison to
accommodate 3% prisoner
growth rate in Alaska

*All statistics are from the 2015 Recidivism Reduction Plan Report by the Recidivism Reduction Workgroup

PROVIDING THE RESOURCE OF FOOD WITH FEDERAL DOLLARS IS MUCH CHEAPER THAN PAYING FOR REPEATED INCARCERATIONS WITH STATE DOLLARS.