

# 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.