



Alaska State Legislature Representative Joe Hayes

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CONTACT: Julia O'Malley • (907) 465-3842, Fax: 465-5125
Toll-free: (888) 465-4919, Julia_OMalley@legis.state.ak.us
Actualities: (907) 465-5001

Representative Hayes' Bills Gain Momentum

Two bills moved through first committees without objection

JUNEAU -- HB 32, Sex Crimes and Pornography Forfeitures, was moved out of the House Judiciary Committee today, and HB 36, Enterprise Zones, was moved out of the House Special Committee on Economic Development, Trade and Tourism on Thursday, March 15.

HB 32 would allow the state to seize electronic equipment, such as computers, used for child pornography and other sex crimes. With the improving computer technology industry, adults prone to committing sex crimes are gaining newer and better tools to commit their crimes. This bill not only gets tougher on sex crimes, but will also provide an avenue for police to stay up-to-date with the ever-changing technology industry in a cost-efficient manner. Computers forfeited under this law would go to law enforcement agencies first.

"I introduced HB 32 to help police protect our children from sexual predators. This bill provides another tool to use in the fight against sex crimes, and computers and high tech equipment forfeited will be used to further aid in catching these criminals," Hayes said.

HB 36 would establish a state administered program to encourage economic development in urban and rural Alaska. Enterprise Zones (EZ's) work by offering incentives, such as tax breaks, to businesses developing within the established boundaries of the zone. To qualify as an enterprise zone and area would have to meet certain criteria for being economically depressed. EZ's were "imported" from England by the Reagan administration and now 38 states as well as the federal government have similar programs.

"People are always talking about economic development, but where is the action. When I heard about Enterprise Zones, I knew that Alaska could benefit. HB 36 is a tool for economic development and it will open the door for federal money earmarked for economic development. It is a win-win situation for Alaska," Hayes said.

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