

Public Safety Action Plan: Summary

October 30, 2017

To address the trend of increasing crime in Alaska, Governor Walker tasked the State's public safety agencies with evaluating the causes of the rise in crime and developing a concrete action plan. While public safety is a complex and evolving challenge, the Public Safety Action Plan focuses efforts in four main areas: fairness and efficiency in the criminal justice system, addressing the resource needs of Alaska's public safety agencies, improving the system for addressing mental health and substance abuse issues, and addressing the immediate challenges of the opioid epidemic and drug trafficking.

To improve outcomes in the criminal justice system, public safety agencies will:

- Continue to evaluate the impacts of criminal justice reform legislation passed in 2016;
- Work to pass Senate Bill 54 (2017);
- Begin reviewing clemency applications; and
- Evaluate law governing exoneration and expungement for potential changes.

To identify public safety resource needs, public safety agencies will:

- Use existing resources more efficiently by developing tools to better share data among state agencies and taking other steps to improve interagency sharing and collaboration;
- Leverage technology to increase agencies' capacity and improve communications, including creating a statewide domestic violence and sexual assault hotline and adding telecommunication resources in rural jails;
- Increase local capacity to contribute to public safety, including strengthening the VPSO program, expanding options for tribal courts to provide civil remedies for certain state law violations, and stepping up efforts to educate local law enforcement officers about evidentiary standards; and
- Request additional resources, such as more troopers and prosecutors.

To improve access to mental health and substance abuse treatment, public safety agencies will:

- Work to increase the space available at treatment facilities and explore ways to improve process and avoid unnecessary delays in getting people needed treatment;
- Evaluate and develop a long-term strategy for Title 47 holds; and
- Explore legislative options to improve processes for criminal cases involving mental health and competency concerns.

To address the opioid epidemic and drug trafficking, state agencies will:

- Implement the Strategic Plan for Responding to the Opioid Epidemic;
- Commit more resources to combating drug trafficking, including prosecutors and drug dogs;
- Seek additional funding and capacity through federal partnerships; and
- Propose legislation to enable law enforcement to respond more effectively to the threats posed by drug trafficking.

For a copy of the full Public Safety Action Plan, go to the Department of Law's website at law.alaska.gov.