

ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Dan Sullivan
Mayor

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Mark S. Hall
Fire Chief

Representative Les Gara
State Capital Bldg. Room 500
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Ref: Amendment HB255

Representative Gara,

The Anchorage Fire Department fully supports AS 28.35.161, which makes the use of electronic devices unlawful by the operator of a motor vehicle, and the amendments as proposed in HB 255. Specifically, the provision to permit the use of electronic equipment by emergency personnel when needed as part of emergency response is sufficient to continue safe and effective operations by the fire department. Further, the Anchorage Fire Department agrees that operators of emergency apparatus should be restricted to only information that is applicable to the emergency response and no other exclusions should be permitted. The amendments as proposed allowing emergency providers to view necessary information on a wireless screen while driving, but not type back to the sender will provide the ability for the Anchorage Fire Department to continue providing the best possible emergency response using the latest technology, while also reducing risk to the operators of emergency apparatus and other drivers on the roadway.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Hall
Fire Chief
Municipality Of Anchorage