

# Alaska State Legislature

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## Sponsor Statement

### Senate Bill 48

*“An Act exempting municipal service area boards from the requirements of conducting meetings open to the public when meeting about road conditions affected by harsh weather.”*

Alaska Statute AS 44.62.310(d) exempts certain governmental bodies from conducting meetings in accordance to the rules and guidelines governing public meetings. Senate Bill SB 48 extends this exemption to road service area board members so they may discuss and take action on adverse road conditions caused by unforeseen weather events without violating Alaska’s open meetings act.

Established under Article X Section 5 of the Alaska State Constitution and AS 29.35.450-490, service area districts provide essential road maintenance, fire protection, and park and recreation services to residents living within an established city or borough. In keeping with America’s federalist foundations, service areas promote local governance by encouraging residents to join together and take responsibility for providing basic community services.

AS 44.62.310-312 currently limits a service area’s ability to efficiently respond to adverse weather related road conditions. Unless a public meeting is first scheduled and held, board members cannot discuss and act upon time sensitive issues. Successful passage of SB 48 will grant service area districts the necessary legal authority to expeditiously initiate crucial road maintenance or repairs.