



25th ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
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Fact Sheet for : Senate Bill 48
Sponsor: Senator Gene Therriault

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Short Title: Open Meetings Act: Road Service Exemption

Summary:

- Exempts road service areas from the state's open public meetings requirement (AS 44.62.310-312) so that members may hold meetings to discuss and take action on matters pertaining to road conditions affected by adverse and unforeseen weather events.

Benefits:

- Allows service districts to quickly respond to and counter weather-related road conditions without violating the statutory language of Alaska's open meetings act.

Background:

- 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. In keeping with America's federalist foundations, service districts promote local governance through residents joining together and taking responsibility for providing basic community services.

AS 44.62.310-312 limits a road service area's ability to efficiently respond to road conditions caused by adverse weather. Unless a public meeting is first scheduled and held, board members cannot discuss time sensitive issues. SB 48 grants road service districts the legal authority to take any necessary action to respond quickly to unforeseen road conditions that may cause damage to the road system or inconvenience or danger to the driving public.