

# Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives

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## Sponsor Statement

### **HB 321: State/Muni Airport Security Screening**

Early December of 2011, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) began the installation and use of full-body scanners at four Alaska hub airports.

Initial installations of invasive scanning machinery and physical hand examination of passengers began in late October 2010 throughout the lower 48 states. Concerns have since risen about the risk to health from radiation produced by the scanning equipment. Certain groups of passengers (those with physical changes from aging, health, diseases, military, accident, work, assault) have reported severe impacts from the current intensive touch of intimate body parts by insufficiently trained personnel.

During the many months since imposition of new airport screening procedures, first in the lower United States, and since December 2011 in Alaska, constituents have communicated to Legislators. They have reported personal losses of carry-on items, embarrassment, harm to themselves, their necessary medical equipment, of inappropriate touch and treatment by TSA personnel.

Alaskans fly eight times more often than the national average. In addition, TSA has greater impact on Alaskan transportation mobility given the necessity to use commercial airlines for intra- and inter-state Alaskan travel.

HB 321 adds a new section to Alaska's uncodified law to require all Alaska airports covered by TSA invasive screening to apply for participation in the U.S. authorized Screening Partnership Program (SPP) by December 31, 2013. Created by the federal government, the SPP application is a simple three-page form. Inclusion in the SPP allows airports to opt out from TSA hands-on management of screening by specifically enabling privatization of that function. It will return high quality local control of security screening. The bill also requires Alaska Department of Transportation to reimburse reasonable costs incurred by airports to complete the SPP application.

Opting out of TSA by participating in SPP will enhance security; bring local oversight, local accountability and local jobs to Alaskan residents at the state's key airports.