

Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives

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Sponsor Statement

HB 262- Passenger Security

HB 262 relates to air travel screening security procedures that have begun in Alaska. On October 28, 2010 the TSA began using its newly extensively modified screening areas in Lower 48 airports. These areas were initially setup for a security enforcement process to protect air travelers in the wake of the September 11, 2001 suicide air attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. During December 2011, the Anchorage Ted Stevens International Airport was the first site in the State of Alaska where the TSA implemented the new screening procedures that were already in place in many other states' airports.

HISTORY

October 28, 2010: In response to an incident in another country, the TSA began implementing radiation emitting scanners in various states that take pictures of passengers by displaying their bodies. The images flag possible weapons or bombs that may be concealed, possibly in body cavities. When passengers chose not to be subjected to a scanner, their only option is to be invasively examined by the rubber-gloved covered hands of TSA employees. If the passenger does what the TSA prefers and 'follows the leader' into radiation emitting scanners, and the resulting body image shows potentially harmful objects in locations on their body, the passenger will have no choice but to capitulate to the invasive physical body examination...or not be allowed into the boarding area.

December 10, 2011: The TSA in the Anchorage airport implemented the use of a body scanner that utilizes technology different from that used many in other states. These scanners display an outline of the human body rather than a picture of the person's actual body, but now with the location marked on the body with symbols that indicate where the physical examination will be concentrated.

STATUS TODAY

People across the United States are complaining about the severity of the physical, immoral touching-- resulting in traumatic reactions in law-abiding passengers. These passengers are falsely identified as potential terrorists because operations, prosthesis, surgically placed medical equipment, or natural body irregularities. A large percentage of these individuals are traveling to seek medical treatments. Some have age related maladies; others have received work-related injuries, are cancer survivors or were injured in war zones.

The people of our state are unique in many ways:

- Alaskans travel eight times more often by air than those in other states.
- The occupations and lifestyles of many Alaskans lead to a very high rate of physical injury and trauma.
- More than 70% of Alaskan communities lack road access to statewide road systems.
- In most of Alaska air flight is not an option, it is the only method of travel distances during much the year.
- Many Alaskans require air flight to reach advanced medical care.
- Alaska has the highest per capita percentage of U.S. military veterans.
- Alaska's jet airports are owned by either the state or their local municipality.

HB 262 AND THE RIGHTS OF ALASKANS

Airports in other countries and states throughout the US have developed procedures that do not use TSA employees. Those airports provide solid security while providing safe, respectful treatment of the flying public. HB 262 calls for unfettered access to our state's public airports. The bill does this by making it a class A misdemeanor for any individual, including TSA employees, to require an individual to submit to an electronic body imager or to direct physical contact before being granted access to a public building or a transportation facility.