

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 13: An Act prohibiting the expenditure of state or municipal assets to create a registry based on race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin

The purpose of House Bill 13 is to prevent state or municipal agencies from spending public funds on a registry of persons based on their race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin. In light of recent public comments by the new federal administration regarding limiting rights of people based on their religion or country of origin, it has become necessary to safeguard Alaskans' rights. These include the right to freely practice one's religion without governmental infringement, the right to be free of racial or religious discrimination by the government or in public life, and the right to bear arms irrespective of race or religion. Sources of these rights include the United State Constitution, the Alaska Constitution, and hundreds of years of common law jurisprudence.

While the courts are equipped to resolve issues of constitutional rights, history has demonstrated that finding a judicial resolution is rarely expeditious, and does not always guarantee a just outcome. It is more prudent that the state of Alaska take what proactive measures it can to protect the rights of all Alaskan residents.

The language of this policy would amend an existing statute that prohibits a state or municipal entity from implementing or aiding in the implementation of specified other federal directives. Consequently, the Alaska State Legislature has previously legislated against assisting the federal government with violating the rights of Alaskans. This proposed legislation takes this principle a step further and specifically prevents state implementation of a federal registry based on the protected classes of race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.

I invite you to discuss this issue with me further and urge you to support this legislation.