

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



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Official Business

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### HB 377

### Sponsor Statement

March 9, 2026

*An Act relating to public records: relating to managing and preserving audio and video recordings; and relating to fees for the inspecting and copying of public records under the Alaska Public Records Act.*

House Bill 377 is a two-part bill updating public records statutes. Firstly, it provides conforming language to modernize the definition of records in the Alaska Public Records Act and other areas of statute to include audio and video records. Secondly, it provides an exemption from the so-called “five-hour rule” in the Alaska Public Records Act for municipalities. The five-hour rule is established in AS 40.25.110(c) and specifies that if someone requests public records that require more than five hours to produce in one month, then the requester must pay a fee. In other words, if those records take less than five hours to produce in one month, the requester does not need to pay the fee. In municipalities around the state, this can be abused by social media content creators to get free police body cam footage for social media content. While that footage is free for the content creators, it is very costly for municipalities, especially in terms of staff time. To resolve this issue and allow municipalities to recoup costs on these public records requests, HB 377 establishes an exemption from the five-hour rule for all municipalities. This exemption would be in addition to existing exemptions from this rule for the Bureau of Vital Statistics, the Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, the University of Alaska, the Alaska Railroad Corporation, and the judicial branch. It is important to note that this does not change how public record fees are currently calculated in AS 40.25.110 (c), and also does not impact a municipality’s authority to reduce or waive a fee in AS 40.21.110 (d).

This bill will modernize Alaska's public records statutes and provide municipalities with greater financial flexibility. I hope you will join me in supporting House Bill 377.

**Prepared by Rep. Ashley Carrick’s Office.**

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