

Department of Law CIVIL DIVISION

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Obstruction of Access to Public Places Highlights

• Protects Alaska from unlawful obstruction activities:

- o Increases penalties for existing crimes.
- Creates a new crime of criminal obstruction for obstructing access to public places.
- Creates a civil cause of action for a person whose access to public places is unlawfully obstructed.

• Protects Alaskans' constitutional right to freedom of movement:

- The use of highways for the purpose of travel and transportation is a common and fundamental constitutional right.
- Unlawful obstruction of access to public places deprives Alaskans of their rights under U.S. Const., amend. V and art. I, sec. 1, AK Const.
- By imposing additional criminal penalties and creating a civil cause of action for unlawful obstruction of public places, Alaskans' constitutional right to freedom of movement is protected.
 - Unlawful obstruction is discouraged through greater potential for civil liability or criminal culpability.

• Protects Alaskans' constitutional right to peaceably assemble:

- The right of the people to peaceably assemble is a common and fundamental constitutional right.
- Alaskans may rightfully assemble peaceably under U.S. Const., amend. I and art. I, sec. 6, AK Const.

• HB 71:

Seeks to further discourage activity that is already unlawful or unpermitted;

- Does not limit or curtail Alaskans' constitutional rights under U.S.
 Const., amend. I or art. I, sec. 6, AK Const; and
- o Provides Alaskans an avenue to remedy against unlawful obstruction.