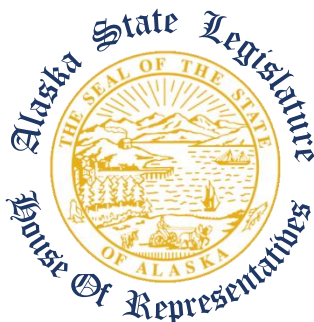


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Sponsor Statement

House Bill 11 - "An Act relating to assault in the third and fourth degrees; and relating to reckless endangerment."

Article 1, Section 19 of the Alaska Constitution, among the declaration of rights enshrines the right of Alaskans to keep and bear arms.

"A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The individual right to keep and bear arms shall not be denied or infringed by the State or a political subdivision of the State."

House Bill 11 is an effort to preserve these rights, and protect individuals acting in a manner in defense of self, defense of a third party or defense of property and premises, from arrest when defensively displaying a firearm.

Current law allows for police to arrest individuals who display a weapon defensively for third or fourth degree assault, or for reckless endangerment. This bill would exclude the provisions of the above mentioned offenses against a person if the individual displays a weapon in a defensive manner.

The bill continues to define defensive display as follows:

- Openly wearing, carrying or possessing a firearm
- Verbally informing another person of the possession of a firearm
- Holding a firearm in a position that does not point the firearm directly at another person
- Displaying a firearm to dissuade a threatening person
- Warning another person of the availability of a firearm to dissuade a threat by the other person

House Bill 11 will protect the rights of Alaskans from the unnecessary arrests and expense of claiming a justification defense, when they merely displayed a firearm, and did not act in a manner that is beyond definition in the bill.

I urge your support for this bill to protect the rights of Alaskans to bear arms in a defensive manner.

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