

Representative Cathy Tilton

Alaska State Legislature – House District 26



SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 61

(33-LS0333\A)

Restrictions on Firearms and Other Weapons

HB 61 is a response to situations that have occurred throughout the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In at least five states and the Municipality of Anchorage, firearms retailers were arbitrarily closed by Governors and Mayors despite a lack of evidence that they disproportionately contributed to the spread of the virus or that there had been an increase in gun violence resulting from disaster declarations.

HB 61 reaffirms the 2nd Amendment by stipulating that the State, municipalities, and other instrumentalities of the State may not implement new restrictions to access firearms, ammunition, firearms accessories, or shooting ranges resulting from disaster declarations. Furthermore, HB 61 also provides a civil remedy to Alaskans, should any of those entities adopt statutes, ordinances, or policies in violation of the provisions of the bill.

Nothing in HB 61 limits the State, municipalities, and other instrumentalities from regulating firearms or their use within previously established constitutional and statutory boundaries.

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