

HOUSE BILL NO. 261

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES EASTMAN, Carpenter, Kurka

Introduced: 1/18/22

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to coercion; and relating to interference with constitutional rights."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 11.41.530(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) A person commits the crime of coercion if the person compels another to
5 engage in conduct from which there is a legal right to abstain or abstain from conduct
6 in which there is a legal right to engage, by means of instilling in the person who is
7 compelled a fear that, if the demand is not complied with, the person who makes the
8 demand or another may

9 (1) inflict physical injury on anyone, except under circumstances
10 constituting robbery in any degree, or commit any other crime;

11 (2) accuse anyone of a crime;

12 (3) expose confidential information or a secret, whether true or false,
13 tending to subject a person to hatred, contempt, or ridicule or to impair the person's
14 credit or business repute;

15 (4) take or withhold action as a public servant or cause a public servant

1 to take or withhold action;

2 (5) bring about or continue a strike, boycott, or other collective
3 unofficial action, if the property is not demanded or received for the benefit of the
4 group in whose interest the person making the threat or suggestion purports to act;

5 (6) testify or provide information or withhold testimony or information
6 with respect to a person's legal claim or defense;

7 **(7) deprive anyone of a civil right.**

8 * **Sec. 2.** AS 11.41.530 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

9 (d) It is not a defense to prosecution under (a)(7) of this section that the
10 defendant was a public official acting in good faith within the scope of the official's
11 employment.

12 * **Sec. 3.** AS 11.76.110(c) is amended to read:

13 (c) Interference with constitutional rights is a class **C felony** [A
14 MISDEMEANOR].

15 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
16 read:

17 APPLICABILITY. AS 11.41.530(a), as amended by sec. 1 of this Act,
18 AS 11.41.530(d), enacted by sec. 2 of this Act, and AS 11.76.110(c), as amended by sec. 3 of
19 this Act, apply to offenses committed on or after the effective date of this Act.