

HOUSE BILL NO. 212

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN

Introduced: 1/16/24

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, under circumstances not
5 proscribed under AS 11.41.410 - 11.41.427, the person compels another to engage in
6 conduct from which there is a legal right to abstain or abstain from conduct in which
7 there is a legal right to engage, by means of instilling in the person who is compelled a
8 fear that, if the demand is not complied with, the person who makes the demand or
9 another may

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

12 (2) accuse anyone of a crime;

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

1 (4) take or withhold action as a public servant or cause a public servant
2 to take or withhold action;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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