

1 IN THE HOUSE BY MESSRS. DEVEAU AND ROADY
2 HOUSE BILL NO. 431
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the crime of libel and
7 the publication of letters in newspapers;
8 amending Sec. 65-4-28, ACLA 1949; and pro-
9 viding for an effective date."

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 Section 1. Sec. 65-4-28, ACLA 1949, is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 Sec. 65-4-28. LIBEL AND SLANDER. That if any person
14 shall wilfully speak, write, or in any other manner, publish
15 of, or concerning another, any defamatory or scandalous matter
16 with intent to injure or defame such other person, he shall
17 be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof he
18 shall be punished by imprisonment in the jail for a period of
19 not less than six months, or by a fine of not less than Fifty
20 Dollars nor more than Five Hundred Dollars, or by both such
21 fine and imprisonment. Any allusion to any person or family,
22 with intent to injure, defame or maliciously annoy such
23 family shall be deemed to come within the provisions of this
24 section.

25 Any newspaper or periodical of general circulation pub-
26 lishing a letter is legally responsible for the contents of
27 the letter as it appears in its columns. The publisher or
28 his agent shall not publish a letter that is without a signa-
29 ture and the address of the author. The name and address of

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the author may be withheld from publication on the request of the author but the name and address shall be kept on file and available to the public for a period of 60 days after publication. Before publishing any letter the publisher or his agent shall verify the existence and address of the author.

Sec. 2. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without such approval.