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Referred: Commerce and  
Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY HUBER, BRADNER, ROSE, ORBECK,  
HARRIS, KERTTULA, MORAN, RANDOLPH,  
SPECKING AND SWANSON

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 625 *AM*

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to public safety by controlling ac-  
7 tivity in close proximity to high voltage electric  
8 lines and conductors."

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

10 \* Section 1. AS 42.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

11 Sec. 42.20.032. PROHIBITION AGAINST PLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT NEAR  
12 ELECTRICAL POWER LINES AND CONDUCTORS. No person individually or through  
13 an agent or employee may

14 (1) place any type of tool, equipment, machinery or material  
15 which is capable of lateral, vertical or swinging motion, within  
16 six feet of a high voltage overhead electrical line or conductor;

17 (2) store, operate, erect, maintain, move or transport  
18 tools, machinery, equipment, supplies, materials, apparatus, buildings  
19 or other structures within six feet of a high voltage overhead electri-  
20 cal line or conductor.

21 Sec. 42.20.034. POSTING OF WARNING SIGN BEFORE OPERATION. No  
22 person individually or through an agent or employee may operate a  
23 crane, derrick, power shovel, drilling rig, hoisting equipment, or  
24 similar apparatus, any part of which is capable of vertical, lateral  
25 or swinging motion, unless the operator or his employer posts and  
26 maintains in plain view of the operator, a durable warning sign  
27 legible at 12 feet, which reads as follows: "It is unlawful to operate  
28 this equipment within six feet of high voltage lines".

29 Sec. 42.20.036. PLACEMENT OF BARRIERS FOR TEMPORARY WORK. Before

1 a person is going to temporarily engage in work or other activity in  
2 closer proximity to a high voltage line or conductor than is permitted  
3 by sec. 32 of this chapter, he shall immediately notify the operator  
4 or owner of the high voltage line or conductor of the work to be  
5 performed and make appropriate arrangements, with payment satisfactory  
6 to the operator, for the installation of temporary mechanical barriers,  
7 temporary deenergization and grounding of the conductors, or a tem-  
8 porary raising of the conductors. Costs incurred by an operator or  
9 owner of a high voltage line or conductor in providing barriers, de-  
0 energization, and grounding as specified in this section shall be paid  
1 by the person engaging in the work which requires these protective  
12 measures.

13 Sec. 42.20.037. PENALTIES. (a) A person who violates secs. 32 -  
14 39 of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction is  
15 punishable by a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment for  
16 not more than six months, or by both.

17 (b) If a violation of secs. 32 - 39 of this chapter results in  
18 physical or electrical contact with an overhead high voltage line or  
19 conductor, the violator is liable to the owner or operator of the  
20 high voltage line or conductor for all damage to the facilities and  
21 for all liability incurred by the owner or operator as a result of  
22 the unlawful activities.

23 (c) Each day on which a person fails to post or maintain a sign  
24 as required by sec. 34 of this chapter constitutes a separate and  
25 additional violation.

26 Sec. 42.20.038. NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES. Secs.  
27 32 - 39 of this chapter do not apply to

28 (1) activities relating to high voltage overhead conductors  
29 or their supporting structures conducted by persons authorized by the

1 operator or owner of high voltage overhead conductors or their  
2 supporting structures;

3 (2) work done on telephone or communication circuits or  
4 their supporting structures; or

5 (3) the operation or maintenance of equipment traveling  
6 or moving upon fixed rails of a railroad.

7 Sec. 42.20.039. DEFINITIONS. In secs. 32 - 39 of this chapter

8 (1) "high voltage" means a voltage in excess of 750 volts  
9 between conductors or between any single conductor and the ground;

10 (2) "overhead lines or overhead conductors" means all bare  
11 or insulated electrical conductors installed above ground except those  
12 that are deenergized and grounded or enclosed in iron pipe or other  
13 metal covering of equal strength.  
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