



# LAWS OF ALASKA

1997

**Source**  
SB 56 am H

**Chapter No.**  
10

## AN ACT

Relating to tourist oriented directional signs that are 90 inches in width and 18 inches in height, relating to penalties for violations related to outdoor advertising, and annulling a regulation of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

**Veto Overridden:** April 21, 1997  
**Actual Effective Date:** July 20, 1997

AN ACT

1 Relating to tourist oriented directional signs that are 90 inches in width and 18 inches in  
2 height, relating to penalties for violations related to outdoor advertising, and annulling a  
3 regulation of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

4

5 \* **Section 1.** LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; INTENT. (a) The Alaska State Legislature finds  
6 that

7 (1) the scenic beauty of Alaska is unquestionably unique and is revered by  
8 residents of the state as well as visitors to Alaska;

9 (2) it is imperative that the State of Alaska maintain its scenic highway system  
10 throughout the state for the benefit of residents of Alaska and visitors to Alaska;

11 (3) it is also imperative that residents of Alaska and visitors to Alaska travel in  
12 a safe manner on the state highway system and that the safety of the residents of Alaska and  
13 visitors to Alaska be assured by a system of directional signing for traveler oriented attractions  
14 and services.

15 (b) It is the intent of the Alaska State Legislature to provide better information to

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1 motorists by authorizing a well planned and regulated system of directional signing for traveler  
2 oriented attractions and services in a manner similar to the current tourist oriented directional  
3 sign program that has been established under policies of the Department of Transportation and  
4 Public Facilities and in a manner consistent with standards established by the Federal Highway  
5 Administration and the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

6 \* Sec. 2. AS 19.25.105(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) Outdoor advertising may not be erected or maintained within 660 feet of  
8 the nearest edge of the right-of-way and visible from the main-traveled way of the  
9 interstate, primary, or secondary highways in this state except the following:

10 (1) directional and other official signs and notices which include, but  
11 are not limited to, signs and notices pertaining to natural wonders, scenic and historic  
12 attractions, which are required or authorized by law, and which shall conform to  
13 federal standards for interstate and primary systems;

14 (2) signs, displays, and devices advertising the sale or lease of property  
15 upon which they are located or advertising activities conducted on the property;

16 (3) signs determined by the state, subject to concurrence of the United  
17 States Department of Transportation, to be landmark signs, including signs on farm  
18 structures, or natural surfaces, of historic or artistic significance, the preservation of  
19 which would be consistent with the provisions of this chapter;

20 (4) directional signs and notices pertaining to schools;

21 (5) advertising on bus benches or bus shelters, and adjacent trash  
22 receptacles, if the state determines that the advertising conforms to local, state, and  
23 federal standards for interstate and primary highways;

24 **(6) tourist oriented directional signs erected under (e) of this**  
25 **section.**

26 \* Sec. 3. AS 19.25.105(d) is amended to read:

27 (d) Outdoor advertising may not be erected or maintained within the right-of-  
28 way of an interstate, primary, or secondary highway except that outdoor advertising  
29 is allowed on

30 **(1)** bus benches and bus shelters, and adjacent trash receptacles, located  
31 within the right-of-way under the authority of a permit issued under AS 19.25.200, if

1 the bus benches or bus shelters are located within a borough or unified municipality  
2 and the buses that stop at that location operate during the entire year; **and**

3 **(2) tourist oriented directional signs erected under (e) of this**  
4 **section.**

5 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 19.25.105 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

6 (e) The department shall establish a tourist oriented directional sign program.

7 The department shall erect, or permit the erection of, directional signs for traveler  
8 oriented attractions and services within and outside of the rights-of-way of interstate,  
9 primary, and secondary highways in areas zoned industrial or commercial or in  
10 unzoned areas determined to be commercial or industrial areas. The signs may be  
11 erected on private land adjacent to the rights-of-way of interstate, primary, and  
12 secondary highways in this state if permission for the erection of the sign is granted  
13 by the owner of the private land. The sign, excluding posts, must be 90 inches in  
14 width and 18 inches in height and may contain only the name of the attraction or the  
15 business providing the attraction or service, an icon representing the attraction or  
16 service, the distance to the attraction or service, and a directional arrow. The  
17 department may except a sign from the width and height requirements of this  
18 subsection if the sign does not exceed 90 inches in width or 18 inches in height and  
19 the department finds that the exception is consistent with the purposes of this  
20 subsection. The location of directional signs within a right-of-way and the design and  
21 content of directional signs must be consistent with standards approved by the Federal  
22 Highway Administration. The department shall retain control over the location of  
23 directional signs. In scenic areas, the department shall control the location of  
24 directional signs in a manner that maintains the quality of scenic areas.

25 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 19.25.130 is amended to read:

26 **Sec. 19.25.130. Penalty for violation.** A person who violates AS 19.25.080  
27 - 19.25.180, or a regulation adopted under **AS 19.25.080 - 19.25.180** [THEM], is guilty  
28 of a **violation** [MISDEMEANOR] and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not  
29 less than \$50 nor more than \$1,000.

30 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 19.45.002 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 19.45.002. Penalties.** A person who violates **a** [ANY] provision of

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1 AS 19.05 - AS 19.25, **other than a provision of AS 19.25.080 - 19.25.180**, is guilty  
2 of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not less than \$10 nor  
3 more than \$500, or by imprisonment in jail for a period not to exceed one year, or by  
4 both.

5 \* Sec. 7. 17 AAC 20.010 is annulled.