

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION

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Sponsor Statement

SB 201 - Criminal Trespass on Private Property

As a landowner, you have the right to regulate activities on your property. However, in Alaska, current state law gives a person the privilege to enter and remain on unimproved or apparently unused land that isn't posted with "no trespassing" signs. Furthermore, a sign must be placed at each roadway or access point onto the property. Many Alaskans own private property in remote locations with inclement weather. No trespassing signs can be blown down, removed by vandals, or covered by snow. The lack of visible signage should not absolve trespassers of guilt.

Senate Bill 201 would repeal Alaska Statute 11.46.350(b) and (c), thereby removing the requirement that private property be posted in order for criminal trespass laws to be enforced. It should be the responsibility of the individual to know who owns the property that they want to access. Today's technology allows many options for individuals to identify public and private property boundaries such as topo maps that can be downloaded on a smart phone or GPS. In addition, the public can access maps showing property boundaries from the state Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Geological Survey, as well as municipal plats available at city hall.

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