



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

Sponsor: Senator Gene Therriault
Current Version: CSSB 255 (FIN)
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 255

Short Title: Illegal Use Traffic Preemption Device

Summary:

- Makes it a class A misdemeanor for anyone other than emergency response providers or select state and municipal vehicles to use a Traffic Preemption Device.
- Allows municipalities to decide whether to exempt public transit vehicles.

Benefits:

- Reserves the right to use TPDs for authorized users, including emergency response providers, road maintenance and public transit vehicles.
- Reduces fuel usage and maintenance cost for road maintenance and public transit vehicles.
- Increases the efficiency of the public transit system.

Background:

Traffic Preemption Devices (TPDs) are used to change traffic signals from red to green, allowing the user to move through intersections without having to stop for opposing traffic. TPDs have been used on emergency response vehicles for 15 years. Road maintenance and public transit vehicles can also use this same technology to reduce wear and tear by limiting the need for stopping the vehicle. Civilian use of these devices has increased recently due to the availability of TPDs on the Internet, interfering with legitimate use.