



Alaska State Legislature Senate Majority News

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Legislature Passes New Self Defense Law

SB 200 Based on Florida's "Castle Law"

(JUNEAU) – Today the Alaska House voted 33 to 0 in favor of legislation to expand the legal ability of Alaskans to protect children, themselves and their property.

Sen. Gene Therriault (R - North Pole) sponsored the bill to allow Alaskans to use deadly force under an expanded list of circumstances where they or others face life-threatening situations. "A carjacking is just one example of a situation that may arise that is not covered by our current state law" Therriault said. The bill reflects the new circumstances where Alaskans should be allowed to protect themselves and the lives others.

SB 200 is patterned after Florida's "Castle Law", a groundbreaking statute that broadened self defense laws to more accurately reflect situations where innocent lives are threatened.

The bill allows a carjacking victim who is still inside a vehicle to use deadly force. The measure also permits someone outside a vehicle to protect a carjacking victim who is still inside the vehicle.

Children in danger of being kidnapped, sexually assaulted, injured or killed are circumstances where deadly force would now be allowed. The law also expands the list of residential and business locations where citizens would have a right to use deadly force in self-defense. The measure also offers protection from civil lawsuits when a person rightfully uses the new law to protect themselves and others.

The protections in the new law are not available to individuals engaged in gang related activity.

Under no circumstances can force be used against law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, EMTs or those assisting them in their official duties.

The Senate is expected to concur with amendments made by the House. SB 200 will then go to the governor to be signed into law.

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