

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 193(RES) am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Amended: 3/22/20

Offered: 3/17/20

Sponsor(s): SENATORS COGHILL, Bishop, Revak, Reinbold

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to liability of an electric utility for contact between vegetation and the utility's facilities; and relating to vegetation management plans."

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

*** Section 1.** AS 09.65 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 09.65.086. Civil liability of electric utility for contact between vegetation and utility facilities. (a) Except as provided in (b) of this section, a utility offering electrical service to the public for compensation under a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the former Alaska Public Utilities Commission or the Regulatory Commission of Alaska under AS 42.05.221 may not be held liable for property damage, death, or personal injury resulting from contact between vegetation and the utility's facilities.

(b) This section does not preclude civil liability for property damage, death, or personal injury resulting from contact between vegetation and the utility's facilities if

(1) the vegetation was located entirely within the boundaries of the

1 utility's real property, lease, permit, easement, or right-of-way and the utility did not
 2 have, or failed to comply with, a vegetation management plan; or

3 (2) the vegetation was located outside the boundaries of the utility's
 4 real property, lease, permit, easement, or right-of-way and the utility caused the
 5 vegetation to

6 (A) enter the boundaries of the utility's real property, lease,
 7 permit, easement, or right-of-way; and

8 (B) contact the utility's facilities.

9 (c) This section does not preclude civil liability for private property damage
 10 resulting from a fire caused by contact between vegetation and a utility's facilities.

11 (d) In this section, "vegetation management plan" means a document that
 12 establishes a procedure by which a utility will manage vegetation to protect the
 13 reliability and safety of the utility's electric facilities.

14 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
 15 read:

16 **APPLICABILITY.** This Act applies to civil lawsuits against electric utilities filed on
 17 or after the effective date of this Act.