



## ALASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 111222 ANCHORAGE, AK 99511

North Pole – Fairbanks – Shemya – Anchorage – Juneau – Ketchikan

[www.alaskapffa.org](http://www.alaskapffa.org)



March 6, 2018

Representative Jason Grenn

State Capital Room 418

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Representative Grenn,

I am writing today in support of HB 385 the enhanced 911 bill. HB 385 would address two critical issues related to 911 systems. First it would mandate that Multi Line Telephone Systems provides specific locations and second it would allow individuals to call 911 without having to use a prefix. Both measures will aid in getting first responder to those who need assistance in a timely manner.

The fire service takes great pride in being able to deliver critical services in a timely manner. Outcomes are affected by how quickly we can respond and begin to mitigate the emergency. Almost all responses start with a 911 call. Being able to pinpoint an exact location is critical to getting the proper resources on location. HB 385 will help 911 dispatcher pinpoint locations in building that use MLTS and direct first responders to the appropriate locations.

Often calls to the 911 are made under stressful circumstances. An individual could be very ill, they may have witnessed a traumatic event, or may be involved in domestic abuse situation. The need to dial a prefix before 911 is easily missed when experiencing stress. HB 385 fixes this issue and makes it so no one must dial a prefix before dialing 911.

HB 385 incorporates positive changes to the 911 system. These changes will assist 911 dispatchers in pinpointing the location of the caller and by eliminating the need to dial a prefix make it easier for callers connect with 911 dispatcher. Ultimately these enhancements will help first responder mitigate emergencies and better serve their communities. For these reasons the AKPFFA is happy to support HB 385.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Thomas A. Wescott".

Thomas A. Wescott

President Alaska Professional Fire Fighters