

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement

SB 159: Workers' Compensation Funeral Expenses

"An Act increasing the maximum funeral expenses payable as a workers' compensation death benefit; and providing for an effective date."

Under current Workers' Compensation Statutes in Alaska, a \$5,000 death benefit is provided to help pay the funeral expenses of a worker who has been killed on the job.

This amount is not nearly enough to bury a loved one and insulting when attached to a human life lost through negligence on behalf of an employer.

The \$5,000 funeral expense has not been adjusted since 2000 – nine years ago. During this time, the cost of a funeral has risen significantly. Traditional funerals may run between \$7,500 and \$12,000 – and often more.

Senate Bill 159 seeks to increase the maximum funeral expense under the Workers' Compensation Statutes to a modest \$10,000.

I urge your support of this legislation.