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Senator Lesil McGuire

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 203

“An Act relating to overtime pay eligibility for medical care providers employed by common air carriers or by carriers that transport mail by air for the federal government and to overtime pay eligibility for flight crews and medical care providers employed by air ambulance service providers.”

Air ambulance air carriers have become a common and essential life line for Alaskans. The service is vital to the well-being of Alaskans across our vast state. To provide this life-saving service, flight crews regularly included medical providers to administer appropriate medical care during the flight and in a flight emergency provide the same assistance that flight attendants do on passenger service carriers.

Current law exempts air ambulance crews from the overtime requirements in Alaska. This is in line with the federal Railway Labor Act which exempts flights crews from overtime requirements because of the nature of the air business. When the state law was originally passed it defined air crews as pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer, and flight attendants; however today's air crews also include these medical care providers as part of their regular crew. Senate Bill 203 updates current statute by exempting these medical care providers from overtime requirements, thus bringing it in line with modern practice in the air ambulance business.

I ask for your consideration and support for SB 203 to align Alaska's laws with current practices.

Contact: Forrest Wolfe, Legislative Aide to Senator Lesil McGuire at (907)-465-2995