



# LAWS OF ALASKA

**2003**

**Source**

SCS CSHB 214(JUD)(efd fld S)

**Chapter No.**

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**AN ACT**

Relating to the recovery of punitive damages against an employer who is determined to be vicariously liable for the act or omission of an employee.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1



## AN ACT

1 Relating to the recovery of punitive damages against an employer who is determined to be  
2 vicariously liable for the act or omission of an employee.

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4 \* **Section 1.** AS 09.17.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (k) In a civil action in which an employer is determined to be vicariously  
6 liable for the act or omission of an employee, punitive damages may not be awarded  
7 against the employer under principles of vicarious liability unless (1) the employer or  
8 the employer's managerial agent (A) authorized the act or omission and the manner in  
9 which the act was performed or omission occurred; or (B) ratified or approved the act  
10 or omission after the act or omission occurred; or (2) the employee (A) was unfit to  
11 perform the act or avoid the omission and the employer or the employer's managerial  
12 agent acted recklessly in employing or retaining the employee; or (B) was employed in  
13 a managerial capacity and was acting within the scope of employment. In this  
14 subsection, "managerial agent" means a management level employee with the stature

1           and authority to exercise control, discretion, and independent judgment over a certain  
2           area of the employer's business and with some power to set policy for the employer.

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

5           **APPLICABILITY.** This Act applies to a cause of action that accrues on or after the  
6 effective date of this Act.