

# Alaska State Legislature

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## Senate Bill 205 White Paper

### What is HB 210?

SB 205 improves Alaska's occupational disability benefits for peace officers and firefighters who are permanently injured or become ill because of their job and can no longer work.

### Who SB 205 Applies To:

Peace officers & Firefighters who suffer a job-related (occupational) disability and are medically determined to be unable to continue working.

### What Happens Today (Before SB 205):

Occupational disability benefit is 40% of your gross monthly pay.

### What SB 205 Does:

Improves long-term disability pay: first 12 months: 40% of gross monthly pay; after 12 months: 75% of gross monthly pay.

Protects your retirement while you are disabled while you are receiving occupational disability benefits:

- Your employer continues making retirement contributions for you
- Contributions are based on your pre-injury salary
- You are fully vested in those employer contributions
- You do not have to contribute (no paycheck to withhold from)
- This means getting hurt on the job does not erase your retirement future.

### Why SB 205 Matters:

Public safety work is dangerous and physically demanding.

- Serious injuries happen despite training and professionalism.
- No one should face poverty because they were hurt protecting others.
- Alaska must remain competitive with other states for recruiting and retaining first responders.

### Bottom Line:

SB 205 modernizes Alaska's occupational disability system by:

- Providing realistic wage replacement
- Preserving retirement security
- Supporting firefighters and police officers when they need it most.

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