

Alaska State Legislature



Interim:
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Anchorage, Alaska 99501
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Session:
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
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Senator Kevin Meyer
Senate District O

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SB 38

"An Act establishing a one-time occupational death benefit for peace officers and fire fighters."

SB 38 would provide a one-time payment of \$100,000 from existing pension funds to a surviving spouse or dependent child of a fire fighter or peace officer who dies in the line of duty.

This bill provides an added benefit without additional cost to the state. The \$100,000 benefit would come out of an allocation of existing PERS pension funds. Both the Alaska Professional Fire Fighters and the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association have expressed support for this legislation. The Division of Retirement and Benefits have analyzed this benefit and show no or very little change in the total unfunded accrued liability.

This added benefit which takes no additional state dollars, can also be used as a recruitment incentive. For our fire fighters and peace officers who put their lives on the line and are paying into the PERS system, this one-time benefit offers our public servants and their families some peace of mind.