

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## Senator Joe Paskvan

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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."*

Senate Bill 159 addresses one section of the Workers' Compensation Statutes in Alaska and proposes that reasonable and necessary funeral expenses will be increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The funeral expense for a worker who is killed on the job has not been adjusted since 2000, even though the cost of a funeral has risen significantly in the last decade.

Last year, according to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 17 fatalities in the State of Alaska that required payment of the workers' compensation funeral expenses.

As a result of this legislation, there will be no financial impact to the state and the National Council on Compensation Insurance estimates that "overall workers compensation system costs in Alaska will increase by less than 0.1%."

I urge your support of this legislation.