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SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 4

“An Act Relating to Automated External Defibrillators.”

On behalf of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association I am pleased to introduce HB 4. The purpose of this bill is to reduce impediments in state law to allow for more public access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

AEDs are automated medical devices that can be safely used by an untrained bystander to restore a normal cardiac rhythm in a person experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. The device provides both verbal and written instructions to the user.

The use of AEDs are currently covered by Alaska’s Good Samaritan Law (AS 09.65.090), which is designed to encourage would-be rescuers to take action without fear of litigation. However, Alaska’s Good Samaritan attaches conditions to building owners and institutions that provide AEDs (AS 09.65.087). These conditions include requirements to provide training, maintenance, a means to notify 911, and registering the device(s) with emergency medical services (EMS).

Large companies and institutions cannot confidently assure that each of the conditions can be reliably met; therefore, exposing them to liability and discouraging access to AEDs. Removing these conditions would encourage the increased availability of AEDs in our communities.

Thank you for your support.