

SENATE BILL NO. 270 am H

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS GREEN, Wilken, Cowdery, Ben Stevens, Ogan, French, Dyson, Gary Stevens, Wagoner, Seekins, Elton, Therriault

REPRESENTATIVES Samuels, Lynn, Dahlstrom

**Amended: 2/26/04
Introduced: 1/16/04**

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing November as Avalanche Awareness Month."**

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

3 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
4 to read:

5 INTENT. Alaskans live, work, and play on the edge of the wilderness. We spend
6 twice as much time engaging in winter recreational activities as most other Americans. Many
7 of the state's popular winter recreation areas are subject to avalanche danger. Many Alaskans
8 are not properly educated or equipped to recognize and respond to avalanches. Alaska has the
9 highest avalanche death rate per capita in the nation: more than 70 Alaskans have died in
10 avalanches in Alaska since 1968, with 28 of those deaths occurring since 1999. In
11 establishing November as Avalanche Awareness Month, it is the intent of the legislature to
12 encourage education of Alaskans about avalanche risks, responding to avalanches, and the use
13 of appropriate equipment, in order to reduce the incidence of avalanche-related fatalities.

14 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to read:

15 **Sec. 44.12.098. Avalanche Awareness Month.** The month of November

1 each year is established as Avalanche Awareness Month. Avalanche Awareness
2 Month may be observed by schools, community groups, and other public and private
3 agencies and individuals with appropriate activities that increase the public's
4 awareness of avalanche dangers, how to respond to avalanches, and the use of
5 appropriate equipment in avalanche areas.