

HOUSE BILL NO. 435

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KAPSNER, Berkowitz, Kerttula, Gara

Introduced: 2/8/06

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act directing the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to determine the
2 number of first responders needed for various purposes; and providing for an effective
3 date."

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

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

7 FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds that there should be a sufficient
8 number of first responders across the state and that first responders should have the tools to
9 perform their duties. The legislature recognizes that defining staffing and deployment
10 requirements for first responders is a complex effort and requires consideration of numerous
11 factors.

12 (b) The purpose of this Act is to determine the staffing levels and deployment
13 requirements for first responders that are necessary to protect all communities of the state.

14 * **Sec. 2.** AS 26.23 is amended by adding a new section to read:

1 **Sec. 26.23.047. Assessment of first responder levels.** (a) Through a process
2 established by the department, the department shall annually determine the number of
3 first responders required in each community in the state that would enable the
4 department to

5 (1) respond to emergency and nonemergency demands of all citizens in
6 a timely manner;

7 (2) conduct prevention and other proactive tasks effectively, including
8 community-oriented disaster preparedness and problem solving; and

9 (3) ensure the safety of the public and first responders.

10 (b) On or before November 1 of each year, the department shall submit a
11 report to the governor that includes its findings under (a) of this section. The
12 department shall notify the legislature when the report is available.

13 (c) In this section, "first responder" means an individual who, in the early
14 stages of a disaster, is responsible for the protection and preservation of life and
15 property, including a law enforcement officer, fire fighter, health worker, local search
16 and rescue team member, or member of another skilled support service.

17 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).