

AMENDMENT<sup>#</sup> /

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE  
TO: CSHB 320(FIN)

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARA

1 Page 1, line 12, through page 2, line 5:

2 Delete all material and insert:

3 **\*\* Sec. 2.** AS 18.60.120 is amended to read:

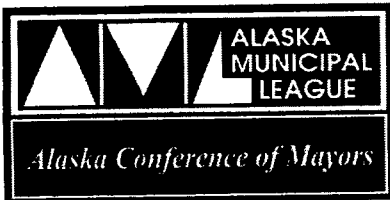
4 **Sec. 18.60.120. Search and rescue parties.** Upon being notified that a person  
5 is lost, injured, killed, or is in need of immediate rescue, **each of the following** [THE  
6 COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY OR A DESIGNEE] may appoint a  
7 competent person to organize, direct, and guide a search and rescue party **and may**  
8 **authorize a person to participate in a search and rescue party under this section:**

9 **(1) the commissioner of public safety or the commissioner's**  
10 **designee;**

11 **(2) a peace officer;**

12 **(3) a fire fighter; in this paragraph, "fire fighter" has the meaning**  
13 **given in AS 09.65.295; or**

14 **(4) a person authorized by a political subdivision of the state** [FOR  
15 THE PURPOSE OF RESCUING OR RETRIEVING THE PERSON OR THE  
16 PERSON'S REMAINS]."



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Representative Les Gara  
Room 500  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Gara,

Thank you so much for discussing the different options available for HB 320. The Alaska Municipal League welcomes the ability to help the Legislature solve many of the issues that confront our state and our municipalities.

Public safety is one of the more important provisions that the State and larger municipalities provide to the people of Alaska. Included in public safety, are the people who give their time on a volunteer basis to provide search and rescue to those people who might find themselves in dire circumstances... for instance, Emergency Medical Squads (EMS).

Volunteer EMS members risk their own lives on a daily basis to save visitors, tourists, our friends, family members and neighbors. If they get injured while performing these duties, however, they often have no coverage with which to pay for their own medical care. While the larger municipalities are able to cover some of their EMS personnel, the smaller communities do not have the ability or means with which to provide insurance and/or worker's comp for EMS volunteers. To that end, AML fully supports the intention of HB 320 to provide Worker's Compensation to these volunteer EMS personnel as they provide services to the residents and visitors to our state.

AML stands ready to help with the actual mechanics of how this might work. We thank you for addressing this important issue and are more than willing to help do what best serves Alaska's people and the service volunteers who make all of our lives better and safer.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman  
Executive Director