

HOUSE BILL NO. 320

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MEYER, Buch, Holmes

Introduced: 1/15/08

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to certification of search and rescue personnel and organizations;**
2 **requiring certain search and rescue personnel to be considered state employees for**
3 **purposes of workers' compensation coverage; and allowing municipalities to elect to**
4 **provide workers' compensation insurance coverage for search and rescue personnel."**

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

6 *** Section 1.** AS 18.60 is amended by adding a new section to read:

7 **Sec. 18.60.135. Search and rescue individual and team certification and**
8 **registration.** (a) The Department of Public Safety shall, by regulation,

9 (1) establish qualifications required to certify volunteer search and
10 rescue personnel and search and rescue organizations, including search and rescue
11 groups, teams, associations, or similar organizations;

12 (2) certify qualified search and rescue personnel and organizations;

13 and

14 (3) maintain a register of certified search and rescue personnel and

1 organizations.

2 * **Sec. 2.** AS 23.30.092 is amended to read:

3 **Sec. 23.30.092. Volunteer ambulance attendants', police officers', [AND]**
 4 **fire fighters', and search and rescue personnel's insurance.** A political subdivision
 5 may elect to provide benefits and compensation to its volunteer ambulance attendants,
 6 police officers, [OR] fire fighters, **or search and rescue personnel** by obtaining
 7 insurance that would provide its volunteer ambulance attendants, police officers, [OR]
 8 fire fighters, **or search and rescue personnel** with benefits and compensation at least
 9 equivalent to those conferred upon volunteer ambulance attendants, police officers,
 10 [OR] fire fighters, **or search and rescue personnel** by this chapter, and the election
 11 shall be considered compliance with the coverage and insurance provisions of this
 12 chapter. The election shall be made by filing copies of the insurance policy or policies
 13 with the commissioner.

14 * **Sec. 3.** AS 23.30.238(b) is amended to read:

15 (b) The gross weekly earnings for a person receiving benefits under this
 16 section shall be the minimum gross weekly earnings paid a full-time emergency
 17 medical technician **or a person engaged in search and rescue services, as**
 18 **applicable,** employed in the city or borough nearest to the place where the injury
 19 occurred, or, if the nearest city or borough has no full-time emergency medical
 20 technician **or person engaged in search and rescue services, as applicable,** at a
 21 reasonable figure previously set by the nearest city or borough to make this
 22 determination, but in no case may the gross weekly earnings for calculating
 23 compensation be less than the minimum wage computed on the basis of 40 hours of
 24 work a week.

25 * **Sec. 4.** AS 23.30.238 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

26 (c) A person who is injured during the course and within the scope of
 27 providing a volunteer search and rescue service is an employee of the state for
 28 purposes of this chapter if the individual

29 (1) is certified by the state and is registered with the Department of
 30 Public Safety or is an active roster member of a certified search and rescue
 31 organization under AS 18.60.135;

- 1 (2) provides search and rescue services outside an incorporated city or
2 borough; and
3 (3) is not otherwise covered for that injury by an employer's workers'
4 compensation insurance policy or self-insurance certificate.