

**HOUSE BILL NO. 335**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE EISCHEID

Introduced: 2/23/26

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to veterinarians and veterinarian technicians; establishing a pet and**  
2 **service animal disaster emergency plan; relating to the Alaska State Emergency**  
3 **Response Commission; and relating to local emergency planning committees."**

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

5 \* **Section 1.** AS 08.98.125 is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 08.98.125. Exemptions.** This chapter does not apply to the following:

7 (1) a veterinary medical officer in the military service in the discharge  
8 of official duties or as an employee in the federal or state government performing  
9 veterinary medical services within the scope of the person's official duties;

10 (2) a veterinarian who is licensed in another state or country, or a  
11 person whose expertise a veterinarian licensed in this state believes would benefit an  
12 animal, and who provides only consultation to a veterinarian licensed in this state; in  
13 this paragraph, "consultation" means advice or assistance provided in person,  
14 telephonically, electronically, or by any other method of communication from a

1 veterinarian or other person whose expertise, in the opinion of the veterinarian, would  
2 benefit the animal; [AND]

3 (3) a veterinarian licensed and residing in another state who provides  
4 assistance, as requested by and under the supervision of a veterinarian licensed in this  
5 state, for the purpose of providing skills not otherwise available in this state in  
6 conducting research or other practice of veterinary medicine on captive or free-ranging  
7 wildlife; however, that assistance is limited to not more than three events in a calendar  
8 year for not more than a total of 60 days in the year and may not be on a regular or  
9 recurring basis, as defined by the board; **and**

10 **(4) a veterinarian or veterinary technician licensed and residing in**  
11 **another state who provides assistance under the pet and service animal disaster**  
12 **emergency plan established under AS 26.23.040(h).**

13 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 26.23.040 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

14 (h) As part of the state emergency plan required under (a) of this section, the  
15 Alaska division of homeland security and emergency management shall prepare and  
16 maintain a pet and service animal disaster emergency plan. The plan must

17 (1) establish a process for the evacuation, transportation, and  
18 temporary sheltering of pets and service animals during a disaster emergency;

19 (2) identify evacuation shelters designed to accept and temporarily  
20 house pets and service animals during a disaster emergency;

21 (3) establish an identification system to ensure that an owner of a pet  
22 or service animal who is separated from the pet or service animal during an evacuation  
23 is provided with all information necessary to locate and reclaim the pet or service  
24 animal;

25 (4) implement a public information program that provides owners of  
26 pets and service animals with disaster emergency resources relating to pets and service  
27 animals; the program must, at a minimum,

28 (A) provide guidance to owners of pets and service animals to  
29 help owners create an evacuation plan for the pets and service animals;

30 (B) create an emergency checklist for owners of pets and  
31 service animals; and

1 (C) identify local organizations whom the owner of a pet or  
 2 service animal may contact for further support in a disaster emergency,  
 3 including for temporary housing and food assistance;

4 (5) allow the transport of pets and service animals on public  
 5 transportation during a disaster emergency if the pet or service animal is in a cage or  
 6 carrier that safely and securely confines the pet or service animal; if a pet or service  
 7 animal is unable to be transported in accordance with this paragraph, the commission  
 8 may arrange for transportation for the pet or service animal; and

9 (6) establish procedures for a veterinarian or veterinary technician,  
 10 including a veterinarian or veterinary technician licensed and residing in another state,  
 11 to provide assistance with pets and service animals during a disaster emergency.

12 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 26.23.071(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) The commission consists of the commissioners of commerce, community,  
 14 and economic development, environmental conservation, fish and game, health, labor  
 15 and workforce development, natural resources, public safety, and transportation and  
 16 public facilities, or the designees of the commissioners, the adjutant general of the  
 17 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs or a designee, and **eight** [SEVEN]  
 18 members of the public appointed by the governor, two of whom must be members of a  
 19 local emergency planning committee for an emergency planning district that is  
 20 predominantly rural in character and two of whom must be members of a local  
 21 emergency planning committee for an emergency planning district that is  
 22 predominantly urban in character. Two of the other **four** [THREE] members of the  
 23 public who are appointed to the commission must be members of the governing body  
 24 of, or the mayor of, a political subdivision that has a local emergency planning  
 25 committee or a person who, in the opinion of the governor, is otherwise appropriate to  
 26 represent the political subdivision. **One of the other two members of the public who**  
 27 **are appointed to the commission must be a member of a statewide association of**  
 28 **animal control officers, animal shelter staff, and animal welfare professionals**  
 29 **that operates in the state.** The United States Department of Defense - Alaska  
 30 Command, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the United States  
 31 Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Coast Guard may each

1 appoint a representative to serve on the commission in an ex-officio, nonvoting  
2 capacity. To the extent practicable, the commission must include members with  
3 expertise in the emergency response field.

4 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 26.23.073(d) is amended to read:

5 (d) The commission shall appoint the members of a local emergency planning  
6 committee for each emergency planning district established under (a) and (b) of this  
7 section. In making appointments for a district that contains only one political  
8 subdivision, the commission shall follow the recommendations of the political  
9 subdivision if those recommendations would constitute a committee that meets the  
10 requirements of this subsection. In making appointments for a district that contains  
11 more than one political subdivision, the commission shall consider the  
12 recommendations of each political subdivision and follow the recommendations to the  
13 extent that the political subdivisions are in agreement and their recommendations  
14 would constitute a committee that meets the requirements of this subsection. To the  
15 extent required under regulations that may be adopted by the commission, the political  
16 subdivisions in a district that includes more than one political subdivision shall follow  
17 a process under which they develop coordinated recommendations to submit to the  
18 commission under this subsection. In making appointments for a district that includes  
19 some area that is not contained within a political subdivision, the commission shall  
20 consider the recommendations of emergency response organizations in the district. In  
21 making appointments for the district formed under (b) of this section, the commission  
22 shall attempt to achieve equitable geographical representation on the committee.  
23 Except as provided in (e) of this section, each committee must include, at a minimum,  
24 representatives of each of the following **eight** [SEVEN] categories:

- 25 (1) elected local officials;
- 26 (2) law enforcement, civil defense, fire fighting, first aid, health, local  
27 environmental, hospital, and transportation personnel;
- 28 (3) broadcast or print media;
- 29 (4) community groups;
- 30 (5) owners and operators of facilities subject to the requirements of 42  
31 U.S.C. 11001 - 11005;

1                   (6) representatives of a local or interjurisdictional disaster planning  
2 and service area if one has been established that includes part of the district;

3                   **(7) animal care and control personnel;** and

4                   **(8)** [(7)] members of the public that are not described in **(1) - (7)** [(1) -  
5 (6)] of this subsection.

6 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 26.23.073(e) is amended to read:

7                   (e) If advertisement and the commission's own initiative do not result in the  
8 acceptance of appointment to a committee by at least one person from a category  
9 under **(d)(1) - (8)** [(d)(1) - (7)] of this section, the requirement of (d) of this section  
10 that there be representation of that category on that committee is suspended until  
11 sufficient willing appointees become available.