

Introduced: 1/27/86  
Referred: Community & Regional  
Affairs, Judiciary and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY CATO AND KOPONEN

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 514

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to fire prevention activities; and  
7 providing for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 \* Section 1. AS 09.65.070(c) is amended to read:

10 (c) An [NO] action may not be maintained against an employee or  
11 member of a fire department operated and maintained by a municipality  
12 or village, or a fire department registered under AS 29.60.130, if the  
13 claim is an action for tort or breach of a contractual duty and is  
14 based upon the act or omission of the employee or member of the fire  
15 department in the execution of a function for which the department is  
16 established.

17 \* Sec. 2. AS 18.70.075 is amended to read:

18 Sec. 18.70.075. AUTHORITY OF MUNICIPAL OR REGISTERED FIRE  
19 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS [AND THEIR PERSONNEL]. (a) An officer of a  
20 municipal fire department or a fire department registered under  
21 AS 29.60.130 [OR HIS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE], while providing fire  
22 protection services, has the authority to

23 (1) control and direct activities at a [THE] fire;

24 (2) order a person to leave a building or place in the  
25 vicinity of a [THE] fire, for the purpose of protecting the person  
26 from injury;

27 (3) blockade a public highway, street, or private right-of-  
28 way temporarily while at a fire;

29 (4) trespass upon property at or near the scene of a fire

1 at any time of the day or night;

2 (5) enter a building, including a private dwelling, or  
3 [UPON] premises where a fire is in progress, or where there is reason-  
4 able cause to believe a fire is in progress, to extinguish [FOR THE  
5 PURPOSE OF EXTINGUISHING] the fire;

6 (6) enter a building, including a private dwelling, or  
7 premises near the scene of a [THE] fire for the purpose of protecting  
8 the building or premises or for the purpose of extinguishing the fire  
9 which is in progress in another building or premises;

10 (7) upon 24-hour notice to the owner or occupant, inspect  
11 for preplanning all buildings, structures, or other places within the  
12 municipality or the registered fire department's district, except the  
13 interior of a private dwelling, where combustible material is or may  
14 become dangerous as a fire menace to the building;

15 (8) direct the removal or destruction of a fence, house,  
16 motor vehicle, or other thing judged [WHICH HE MAY JUDGE] necessary  
17 [TO REMOVE OR DESTROY] to prevent the further spread of a [THE] fire.

18 (b) An owner or occupant of a building or place specified in  
19 this section or any other person on the site of a fire or other fire  
20 department emergency who refuses to obey the order of an officer of a  
21 municipal or registered fire department [OR HIS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTA-  
22 TIVE] in the exercise of [HIS] official duties is guilty of a class B  
23 misdemeanor [, AND UPON CONVICTION, IS PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT FOR  
24 ONE YEAR, OR BY A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,000, OR BY BOTH].

25 (c) In this section, "inspect for preplanning" means to conduct  
26 limited examinations [INSPECTIONS] for purposes of preparing a fire  
27 attack plan in the event of a future emergency, but does not include  
28 inspections for purposes of determining compliance with statutory or  
29 municipal fire code requirements.

1 \* Sec. 3. AS 18.70.080 is amended to read:

2 Sec. 18.70.080. REGULATIONS. The Department of Public Safety  
3 shall adopt [RULES AND] regulations for the purpose of protecting life  
4 and property from fire and explosion by establishing minimum standards  
5 for

6 (1) fire detection and suppression equipment;

7 (2) fire and life safety plan check criteria in commercial,  
8 industrial, business, institutional or other public buildings [BUILD-  
9 ING], and buildings used for residential purposes containing four or  
10 more dwelling units that are to be built, or are to be substantially  
11 remodeled in a way that will affect a fire or life safety feature;

12 (3) fire and life safety inspection criteria in the follow-  
13 ing types of buildings:

14 (A) a building used for public assembly, with a capac-  
15 ity of more than 50 persons;

16 (B) a building used for educational or child care  
17 purposes for more than six children;

18 (C) an institutional building, including structures  
19 for the full-time care of more than five children, hospitals,  
20 nursing homes, and adult and juvenile correctional facilities;

21 (D) a residential building that is more than two  
22 stories in height, or with more than 15 dwelling units or 20  
23 guest rooms;

24 (E) a high-rise building with a floor level used for  
25 human occupancy, which is 35 feet above the lowest level of fire  
26 department vehicle access;

27 (4) any activity in which combustible or explosive materi-  
28 als are stored or handled in commercial quantities;

29 (5) [(4)] conditions or activities carried on outside a

1 building described in (2), [OR] (3), or (4) of this section likely to  
2 cause injury to persons or property.

3 \* Sec. 4. AS 18.70.080 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

4 (b) The Department of Public Safety may establish, by regula-  
5 tion, reasonable fees to be charged for the fire and life safety plan  
6 check as described in (a)(2) of this section.

7 \* Sec. 5. AS 18.70.090 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 18.70.090. ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS. The Department of  
9 Public Safety and the chief of each municipal or registered [CITY]  
10 fire department and their authorized representatives [IN THEIR RESPEC-  
11 TIVE AREAS] may enforce the regulations adopted by the Department of  
12 Public Safety for the prevention of fire or for the protection of life  
13 and property [AGAINST FIRE OR PANIC]. All state peace officers may  
14 assist the Department of Public Safety in the enforcement of AS 18.-  
15 70.010 - 18.70.100 and the regulations adopted under those sections  
16 [IT]. The authority conferred in AS 18.70.010 - 18.70.100 extends to  
17 the enforcement of the provisions of AS 11.46.400 - 11.46.450, 11.-  
18 46.484(a)(4), and AS 11.56.800(a)(3) [AS 11.46.400 - 11.46.430].

19 \* Sec. 6. AS 18.70.082 is repealed.

20 \* Sec. 7. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-  
21 10.070(c).