

Original sponsor(s): Rules/Governor

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 401 (L&C)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a workplace safety education and  
7 training program; and providing for an effective  
8 date."

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

10 \* Section 1. POLICY AND FINDINGS. The legislature declares that it is  
11 the public policy of this state to promote safe and healthful conditions in  
12 the workplace. Further, it is the public policy of this state to encourage  
13 voluntary compliance with safety and health regulations and to encourage  
14 the prevention of illness and injury through education and training. The  
15 legislature finds that this education and training policy is necessary  
16 because

17 (1) Alaska's occupational safety and health injury and illness  
18 incidence rate was 31 percent higher than the national average in 1987;

19 (2) eleven out of every 100 Alaska workers suffered a work-  
20 related injury or illness in 1987;

21 (3) many of the injuries and illnesses suffered by the state's  
22 workers have resulted in loss of time at work, as demonstrated by a time-  
23 loss rate for Alaska that was 26 percent higher than the national average  
24 in 1987;

25 (4) Alaska's proportion of injuries in high-risk industries is  
26 greater than that of many of its sister states; for example, the Alaska  
27 injury and illness rate for logging is 174 percent higher than the national  
28 average; and

29 (5) in Alaska, the worker fatality rate during the period 1980 -

1 1984 was almost four times the national rate; the Alaska worker fatality  
2 rate was 33.5 cases per 100,000 workers as compared to the national rate of  
3 8.8 cases per 100,000 workers.

4 \* Sec. 2. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature to  
5 encourage the full benefits of illness and injury prevention measures by  
6 creating an education and training program on workplace safety and health  
7 which will operate in part through grants to public and private employers,  
8 trade associations, nonprofit organizations, labor organizations or their  
9 federations, and educational institutions, to provide education, training,  
10 and other effective prevention measures. Furthermore, it is the intent of  
11 the legislature to foster voluntary preventive activities on the part of  
12 employers and employees through effective statewide education and training  
13 on workplace safety and health.

14 \* Sec. 3. AS 18.60 is amended by adding a new section to read:

15 Sec. 18.60.071. WORKPLACE SAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

16 (a) The department shall administer a workplace safety education and  
17 training program. In administering the program, the department shall  
18 award grants to public and private employers, trade associations,  
19 nonprofit organizations, labor organizations or their federations, and  
20 educational institutions to provide effective workplace safety educa-  
21 tion and training and other illness and injury prevention measures in  
22 the state.

23 (b) The functions of the workplace safety education and training  
24 program are to

25 (1) develop and implement statewide workplace safety educa-  
26 tion and training measures to familiarize employers, supervisors,  
27 employees, and union leaders with techniques of accident prevention  
28 and investigation;

29 (2) develop and implement consultative educational

1 techniques to achieve long-range solutions to workplace safety prob-  
2 lems;

3 (3) acquire, develop, and distribute workplace safety  
4 pamphlets, booklets, brochures, and other appropriate safety media  
5 that might be useful in providing workplace safety education and  
6 training;

7 (4) provide technical and educational assistance regarding  
8 workplace safety to employers in the state, with special emphasis on  
9 small business employers;

10 (5) educate and train department staff engaged in adminis-  
11 tering the program; and

12 (6) conduct other activities necessary for the implementa-  
13 tion of an effective program.

14 \* Sec. 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 1990.