

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 385 (L&C)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/1/92
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES ULMER, B.Davis, Bruckman

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to video display terminals."

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

3 * Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

4 (1) investigations conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
5 of video display terminal (VDT) operators resulted in recommendations for workstation design and other
6 measures to reduce musculoskeletal and vision complaints among VDT users;

7 (2) studies world-wide have demonstrated elevated musculoskeletal discomforts and other
8 disorders in VDT operators as compared with non-VDT workers; research has shown that inadequate
9 workstation adjustment and lack of operator knowledge of adjustments and other remedies are associated
10 with musculoskeletal discomforts and other complaints; the consensus of the National Institute, the World
11 Health Organization, and the American National Standards Institute is that adjustable VDT workstations
12 in combination with training on proper adjustment of the workstation substantially contribute to a
13 healthier environment for VDT operators;

14 (3) reduction of the health and safety risks through education of state workers and

1 modification or replacement of the VDT workstation and associated equipment will help prevent VDT
2 related injuries, thus reducing health insurance and workers' compensation costs to the state.

3 * Sec. 2. AS 39.90 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 Sec. 39.90.160. VIDEO DISPLAY TERMINAL USE. (a) A state agency shall attempt
5 to provide for proper use of video display terminals. The head of a state agency shall appoint,
6 for each qualified worksite of the agency, a person responsible for providing information to other
7 employees on the physical risks associated with improper use of video display terminals and on
8 their proper use. The Department of Administration shall provide training to the appointee in
9 the ergonomically proper use of video display terminals and the measures and work habits that
10 may avoid or lessen physical risks associated with improper video display terminal use. If there
11 are more than 75 terminals in close proximity within the same agency, the agency shall designate
12 at least one qualified worksite for each 75 video display terminals. The Department of
13 Administration shall collect information on the effective use of video display terminals and
14 related workstation furniture from federal agencies and other sources, including the American
15 National Standards Institute, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the National
16 Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and shall make the information available to state
17 agencies.

18 (b) The Department of Administration shall prepare notices to advise state employees
19 using video display terminals about the ergonomically proper use of the terminals. The
20 department shall mail the notices to the persons appointed under (a) of this section. Those
21 persons shall post the notices at the qualified worksite for which they are responsible and shall
22 add information on how employees who desire more information may reach them.

23 (c) The Department of Administration shall prepare and make available to state agencies
24 notices advising state employees using video display terminals at a worksite that is not part of
25 a qualified worksite about the ergonomically proper use of video display terminals. Each state
26 agency shall provide a copy of the notice to those employees who use a video display terminal
27 at a location that is not part of a qualified worksite together with a statement advising the
28 employees of the name and how to contact the nearest available person trained in proper use of
29 video display terminals under (a) of this section.

30 (d) With respect to office equipment related to video display terminal workstations at
31 which video display equipment will be used by an employee for repetitive keyboard activity,

1 including data entry, data inquiry, or text processing, for more than four hours per day, a state
2 agency shall, before purchasing, leasing, or installing the equipment, review and consider whether
3 the equipment is capable of being used in an ergonomically proper manner, using as a guideline
4 the American National Standard for Human Factors for Engineering of Visual Display Terminal
5 Workstations, ANSI/HFS Standard No. 100-1988, or a subsequent revision of that standard.

6 (e) This section does not

7 (1) create a cause of action by any person against the state or an agency of the
8 state, whether at law or otherwise;

9 (2) establish a standard of care;

10 (3) amend or alter administrative remedies of employees; or

11 (4) amend or alter collective bargaining agreements entered into by the state or an
12 agency of the state.

13 (f) In this section,

14 (1) "agency" or "state agency" includes the executive, legislative, and judicial
15 branches of state government, the University of Alaska, and the Alaska Railroad Corporation;

16 (2) "qualified worksite" means a unit or cluster of at least four video display
17 terminals in regular use that are housed together or in close proximity within the same agency;

18 (3) "terminal" or "video display terminal" means an electronic video screen data
19 presentation machine, commonly called a video display terminal, and includes cathode-ray tubes;
20 "terminal" does not include a television, cash register, or oscilloscope screen.

21 * Sec. 3. INITIAL TRAINING AND POSTING OF NOTICES. The Department of Administration
22 shall comply promptly with the requirements for preparation of notices and provision of training so that,
23 within one year after the effective date of this Act, state agencies will have been able to comply with
24 the requirements for posting notices and training current employees set out in AS 39.90.160, enacted by
25 sec. 2 of this Act.