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HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 1/19/87

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

(Hess Referral waived, Finance added 1/21/87)

DATE: Feb. 3, 1987

The Labor & Commerce Committee has considered HB 22

"An Act relating to hazardous physical agents in the workplace."

RECOMMENDS:

- replace with HB 22 the same title
- attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):

- fiscal impact same as previous fiscal note published _____
- zero fiscal note same as previous zero fiscal note published _____
- zero with analysis

SIGNING DO PASS:

Dave Douley

Ellis Jr.

Al Davidson

Mike Kopacz

Scott Merriman

P.A. Brubaker

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Walt Furnace no rec.

Dave Douley
Chairman's signature

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version: HB 22
Publish Date: _____

Revision Date: _____
Title: "An Act relating to hazardous
physical agents in the workplace."

Agency Affected: Labor
BRJ: Occupational Safety & Health

Sponsor: Pourchot and Boyer et al.
Requestor: House Labor & Commerce

Components: Occupational Safety
and Health

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Tom Stuart, Director *TS*
Division: Labor Standards and Safety

Pl. no: 465-4870
Date: 1/23/87

Approved by Commissioner: Jim Sampson *JS*
Agency: Labor

Date: 1/23/87

- Distribution (by preparer):
- Legislative Finance
 - Legislative Sponsor
 - Requestor
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - Impacted Agency(ies)
 - Senate Secretary

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

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POUCHY - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

HL+C

2-3-87

1:15 p.m.

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
PAT POURCHOT

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON OIL AND GAS



House of Representatives

MEMORANDUM

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JUNEAU
POUCH V
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, AK 99811
(907) 465-3712

DATE: January 20, 1987

TO: Representative David Donley, Chairman
House Labor and Commerce Committee

FROM: Representative Pat Pourchot *Pat*

SUBJECT: House Bill 22, Hazardous Physical Agents in the Workplace

As you know Dave, I have introduced HB 22, relating to hazardous physical agents in the workplace. The Speaker has referred this proposal to the Labor and Commerce Committee. I would greatly appreciate your attention to this bill and a hearing by your committee as soon as possible.

House Bill 22 is identical to a bill I introduced last session (HB 319) amending the current "Worker Right to Know" law. This proposal would add ten (10) specific "physical agents" to the existing several hundred hazardous and toxic substances of which employers must inform their employees if they might encounter these situations in their workplace.

These physical agents include microwave radiation, extreme heat, noise, and harmful ultraviolet rays. The known hazards associated with these agents are well documented in the authoritative "Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents in the Work Environment" published by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. The information on these hazardous agents needed by employers is readily available from the Alaska Department of Labor.

As you may know, last session the bill received wide support at hearings in the House Labor and Commerce, HESS, and Finance Committees and passed the House by a vote of 34 to 4. The Senate Committee on Labor and Commerce as well as the Senate Finance supported this proposal. You might be interested to know that no formal opposition was expressed to the bill in either the House or the Senate. In spite of the support of this measure it was among the many bills that died in the Senate Rules Committee due to the lack of time at the end of session.

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This is a good bill which can add significant protection to Alaskan workers with minimal cost and effort by employers of the State. Last year the Department of Labor provided a zero fiscal note and I would expect the same on this proposal. I have attached an explanation of House Bill 22 and would be happy to provide you or your staff with other information or explanation on the provisions of this bill.

Your earliest attention to this bill is appreciated. Thank you.

Enclosures

EXAMPLES OF IMPACTS RESULTING FROM EXPOSURE
TO CERTAIN PHYSICAL AGENTS

Physical Stress	Occupation Examples	Effects
Microwave Radiation	Telecommunication station employee	Superheated body core Questionable effects include: cardiac arrhythmia, cataracts, and psychoneurological dysfunction
Ionizing Radiation (x-rays)	Hospital employees Welders	Cancer of many kinds including: bone, lung, liver, leukemia, chromosomal damage and reproductive abnormalities
Ultraviolet Radiation	Outdoor construction work	Skin cancer
Infrared Radiation	Welders Glass blowers	Flash burns to the retina, cataracts
Lasers	Hospital employees	Eye damage and burns, blindness
Heat Stress	Outdoor physical work	Heat stroke, overheating of the body, extreme conditions may cause loss of consciousness and death
Cold Stress	Oil field service workers	Frostbite, hypothermia, death
Noise	Forest products (sawmill employees and loggers)	Deafness
Hand/Arm Vibration	Construction workers Jackhammer operators Drill operators	"White finger" damage to nerve sensors that regulate circulation causing arterial spasms, chronic lack of blood to muscles causing muscle waste
Airborne Upper Sonic and Ultrasonic Acoustic Radiation	Major doses: as an industrial cleaner (industrial hygienists are not aware of such an application in Alaska)	Deafness

SUMMARY HOUSE BILL 22
WORKER RIGHT-TO-KNOW TO INCLUDE
HAZARDOUS PHYSICAL AGENTS

House Bill 22 amends the "worker right-to-know" statutes to include "physical agents" with other toxic and hazardous substances about which employers must inform their employees.

The existing statute (AS 18.60) directs the Department of Labor to prepare for employers information data sheets on hazardous and toxic materials to which employees may be exposed in the workplace. Information which is compiled by the Department is transmitted to the workers by employers and includes: description of the substantial effects of the substance, known threshold levels where effects occur, activities and situations where the substances are encountered and practices, technology and preventative measures which are available to the workers which will reduce or eliminate the negative impacts of the substance. Safety training for new employees is also required.

The same notice and training requirements for hazardous and toxic substances would be applied to "physical agents" under House Bill 22. Physical Agents are only those identified by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) and include:

- Ionizing radiation (x-rays)
- Heat and cold stress
- Impulsive and impact noise
- Radiofrequency, microwave, ultraviolet, and infrared radiation
- Lasers
- Hand-arm vibrations

With enactment of this bill industrial accidents could be reduced in number and severity. For example, accidents such as the microwave exposure which occurred at Clear Air Force Station several years ago may be avoided if workers are better informed of the substances to which they may be exposed and are not aware of preventative and safety precautions. Many occupations are not readily associate with exposure to dangerous levels of physical agents. Welders and pipe fitters, for example, are often exposed to hazardous exposures of ionizing radiation (x-rays) when examining welds and joints.

It should be emphasized that the bill requires only the dissemination of information and safety training by employers. It does not require that employers or employees implements any safety practices or measures.

I anticipate the fiscal note for the bill to be \$0 because the Department of Labor essentially will be editing existing information from national organizations relating to health and safety in the workplace, including the ACGIH, the Center for Disease Control, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.