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International Conference of Building Officials

Alaska Southeast Chapter



We support the following amendments;

AS 13.70.095. Smoke detection devices. Smoke detection devices shall be installed and maintained in all [living] dwelling units and mobile homes [built, manufactured or sold] in the state. The devices shall be of a type and deployed in a manner approved by the state fire marshall.

A dwelling unit is any building or portion thereof which contains living facilities, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

Add to AS 34.03.100 It shall be the duty of the landlord to provide smoke detection devices in rental units.

Add to AS 34.03.120 It shall be the duty of the tenant to maintain smoke detection devices in rental units.

Justification

Current statute and regulation 13.AAC 50.020 require smoke detectors in all guest rooms in hotels and lodging houses used for sleeping purposes. They are also required in all dwelling units (apartments, condos etc.) except single family homes, duplexes and triplexes built before 1975 that have never been sold. Living units are not defined in the Uniform Building Code (UBC). Dwelling units are defined in the UBC and used in the state fire marshall's regulations. Responsibility for smoke detection devices and maintenance in rental property is not clearly defined.

Alaska has the highest per capita death rate by fire in the western world. These amendments would help reduce fire deaths in Alaska.

This act would have negligible financial impact on rural and urban Alaskans. There is no fiscal note to the state due to implementation of this amendment. This change is also supported by the fire service in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Stephen O. Shows
President

Position Paper

CSHB 282(SA)

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to smoke detection devices."

This bill would amend AS 18.70.095 to include the requirement that smoke detectors be maintained, changes the term "living" unit to "dwelling" unit, requires a landlord to install smoke detectors in apartments, and requires a tenant to replace batteries in DC powered units.

Smoke detectors are proven life savers in fires, but only an estimated 50 percent of all households are equipped with smoke detectors. Also, many homes have smoke detectors that will not operate due to lack of maintenance. The fire services estimate that the existence of a functioning smoke detector increases an occupant's chance of surviving a fire by 86 percent. According to the Alaska Division of Fire Prevention, in 1986, there were no fire deaths in Alaska in buildings with functioning smoke detectors.

The Department of Health and Social Services supports passage of CSHB 282(SA) because it will require functioning smoke detectors in all dwellings, which should help reduce the rates of deaths and injuries due to fires.

Recommended by:

Elizabeth Ward
Elizabeth Ward, M.N.

Director

Division of Public Health

Date:

January 29, 88

Approved by:

Myra M. Munson

Myra M. Munson

Commissioner

Department of Health and

Social Services

Date:

2-2-88

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 5/12/87
Title: An Act relating to smoke detection devices.
Sponsor: Hudson et al.
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
BRU: State Health Services
Components: EMS Certification and Licensing

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

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)

The enactment of CSHB 282(SA) would have no direct fiscal impact on the Department of Health and Social Services.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Ward, Director *Elizabeth Ward* Phone: 465-3090
Division: Public Health Date: _____

Approved by Commissioner: Maria M. Munson *Maria M. Munson* Date: 2-2-88
Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

Alaska State Legislature



REPRESENTATIVE BILL HUDSON

P.O. BOX V
Juneau, Alaska
99811
(907)+65-3744 or 4991

COMMITTEES:
Transportation
HESS
Telecommunications
Fisheries
International Trade

27 April 28, 1987

Representative Fran Ulmer
Chair - House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative Ulmer:

I would be very appreciative if you would schedule HB 282, relating to smoke detection devices, for a committee hearing in the House State Affairs Committee within the next week.

The Alaska Task Force on Fire Prevention concluded that Alaska has the highest rate of fire death per capita in the western world. This legislation will produce the greatest potential for saving lives, as well as substantially reducing the many millions of dollars in property loss.

The legislation is also supported by the International Conference of Building Officials, Alaska Southeast Chapter.

Your favorable consideration to this request for a committee hearing will be appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Bill
Bill Hudson

BILL NO: HB 282

DATE: April 20, 1987



TITLE: An act relating to smoke detection devices

CONTACT: Gordon Brunton

AS 18.70.095 would be amended by this bill to include the requirement that smoke detection devices be maintained; and changes the term "living" unit to "dwelling" unit.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Smoke detectors have proven to be effective life savers in fires, to the extent that, nationally, deaths by fire dropped substantially during the 1970's. 50 percent of all households are estimated to be equipped with detectors. There continues to be fire fatalities in dwellings where detectors are present, but not operating properly. It is estimated that a person's chances of surviving a fire are increased to 86 percent where a properly installed and functioning smoke detector is present.

The Department of Public Safety will continue its educational efforts to have dwellings provided with regularly maintained smoke detectors.

The Department of Public Safety supports passage of HB 282.

Arther English
Commissioner



1986 FIRE LOSS ANALYSIS
SMOKE DETECTOR PERFORMANCE

Nationally, detectors operated in 4.3% of all fires.

In Alaska, detectors operated in 7.3% of all fires.

No fire deaths occurred in Alaska where operating detectors were present.

In 24.6% of all fires in Alaska, NO detectors were present.

There is an indication that in the presence of operating detectors, property losses are less than where there are no detectors (not bad for an initial investment of about \$10.00 and \$3/year for batteries):

\$14,648 loss/incident where detectors are present.

\$15,470 loss/incident where no detectors present.

BASE-REPORT 18
SUMMARY OF FIRES BY ELEMENT
FOR TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND AND/OR FIXED PROPERTY USE

REPORT PERIOD - 01-01-86 THRU 12-31-86

COMPUTER RUN DATE - 04-22-87

STATE- AK

COUNTY- ALL

FIRE DEPARTMENT- ALL

FDID - ALL

STRUCTURE FIRES

	FIXED PROPERTY USE									TOTAL	
	UNCLASS- IFIED	PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PROPERTY	EDUCA- TIONAL PROPERTY	INSTITU- TIONAL PROPERTY	RESIDEN- TIAL PROPERTY	STORE OFFICE PROPERTY	BAS INDS UTILITY DEFENSE	MANUFAC- TURING PROPERTY	STORAGE PROPERTY		SPECIAL PROPERTY
TOTAL STRUCTURE FIRES BY DETECTOR PERFORMANCE.....:											
UNKNOWN											
# OF OCCURRENCES		9	3	4	160	2	4	5	5	3	195
% OF COLUMN TOTAL		15.78	9.67	18.18	13.38	2.94	16.00	26.31	6.57	4.05	12.44
IN RM OF FIRE/OPERATED											
# OF OCCURRENCES		8	10	8	128	3	1	1			159
% OF COLUMN TOTAL		14.03	32.25	36.36	10.71	4.41	4.00	5.26			10.14
NOT IN ROOM/OPERATED											
# OF OCCURRENCES		2	2	2	89				2	1	98
% OF COLUMN TOTAL		3.50	6.45	9.09	7.44				2.63	1.35	6.25
IN ROOM/NOT OPERATED											
# OF OCCURRENCES		3	1	1	82	1	1				89
% OF COLUMN TOTAL		5.26	3.22	4.54	6.86	1.47	4.00				5.67
NOT IN ROOM/NOT OPERAT											
# OF OCCURRENCES		1	3	1	86	2		3		2	98
% OF COLUMN TOTAL		1.75	9.67	4.54	7.19	2.94		3.94		2.70	6.25
IN ROOM/FIRE TOO SMALL											
# OF OCCURRENCES		3	3	1	50	3					60
% OF COLUMN TOTAL		5.26	9.67	4.54	4.18	4.41					3.82
NO DETECTORS PRESENT											
# OF OCCURRENCES		31	9	5	594	52	19	12	66	68	856
% OF COLUMN TOTAL		54.38	29.03	22.72	49.70	76.47	76.00	63.15	86.84	91.89	54.62
OTHER											
# OF OCCURRENCES					6	5		1			12
% OF COLUMN TOTAL					.50	7.35		5.26			.76
** COLUMN TOTALS **		57	31	22	1195	68	25	19	76	74	1567

TALLY-REPORT 22

LISTING OF ALL FIRE ELEMENTS BY FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE
 REPORT PERIOD - 01-01-86 THRU 12-31-86 COMPUTER RUN DATE - 04-22-87

STATE- AK

COUNTY- ALL

FIRE DEPARTMENT- ALL

FDID - ALL

FIRE INCIDENT ELEMENTS

	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	NUMBER SERVICE INJURIES	NUMBER CIVILIAN INJURIES	NUMBER SERVICE DEATHS	NUMBER CIVILIAN DEATHS	DOLLAR LOSS
DETECTOR PERFORMANCE							
0 UNKNOWN	194	5.5	3	6		4	6377836
1 IN RM OF FIRE/OPERATED	159	4.5	1	4			2656478
2 NOT IN ROOM/OPERATED	98	2.8		4			1108097
3 IN ROOM/NOT OPERATED	89	2.5	1	4			524923
4 NOT IN ROOM/NOT OPERAT	98	2.8		6			574053
5 IN ROOM/FIRE TOO SMALL	60	1.7		1			15400
8 NO DETECTORS PRESENT	856	24.6	10	21		7	12678390
9 OTHER	12	.3					79000
BLANK	1908	54.9	6	4		2	2792147
TOTAL	3474	100.0	21	50		13	26806324

SPRINKLER PERFORMANCE

0 UNKNOWN	100	2.8	1				2831095
1 EQUIPMENT OPERATED	33	.9		2			474750
2 EQP SHOULD OPERA/DIDNT	1						7000
3 EQP PRESENT/FIRE SMAL	62	1.7					53894
8 NO EQUIP PRESENT	1362	39.2	14	44		11	20582438
9 OTHER	8	.2					65000
BLANK	1908	54.9	6	4		2	2792147
TOTAL	3474	100.0	21	50		13	26806324

PROPERTY DAMAGE CLASSIFICATION

0 UNKNOWN	2						2000000
1 1 TO 99 DOLLARS	148	4.2					5335
2 100 TO 999 DOLLARS	660	18.9		2			229700
4 10000 TO 24999	819	23.5	7	26		6	4211004
5 25000 TO 49999	112	3.2	3	11		3	3608590
6 50000 TO 249999	48	1.3	1	5		1	2704157
7 250000 TO 999999	79	2.2	9	5		1	12847538
8 1000000 OR MORE	1						1200000
9 NO DOLLAR LOSS	1605	46.2	1	1		2	
TOTAL	3474	100.0	21	50		13	26806324

BASE-REPORT 18
SUMMARY OF FIRES BY ELEMENT
FOR TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND AND/OR FIXED PROPERTY USE

REPORT PERIOD - 01-01-86 THRU 12-31-86

COMPUTER RUN DATE - 04-02-87

STATE- ALL

COUNTY- ALL

FIRE DEPARTMENT- ALL

FDID - ALL

STRUCTURE FIRES

	FIXED PROPERTY USE										TOTAL	
	UNCLASS- IFIED	PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PROPERTY	EDUCA- TIONAL PROPERTY	INSTITU- TIONAL PROPERTY	RESIDEN- TIAL PROPERTY	STORE OFFICE PROPERTY	BAS INDS UTILITY DEFENSE	MANUFAC- TURING PROPERTY	STORAGE PROPERTY	SPECIAL PROPERTY		
TOTAL STRUCTURE FIRES BY DETECTOR PERFORMANCE.....:												
UNKNOWN												
# OF OCCURRENCES	614	761	217	327	18593	933	189	512	1217	682	24045	
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	46.83	21.73	17.90	17.56	22.83	18.60	19.48	18.53	15.40	20.35	21.99	
IN RM OF FIRE/OPERATED												
# OF OCCURRENCES	60	179	183	571	6642	247	34	276	47	2	8261	
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	4.57	5.11	15.09	30.66	8.15	4.92	3.50	9.98	.59	.65	7.55	
NOT IN ROOM/OPERATED												
# OF OCCURRENCES	36	82	50	153	5763	119	8	54	59	23	6347	
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	2.74	2.34	4.12	8.21	7.07	2.37	.82	1.95	.74	.68	5.80	
IN ROOM/NOT OPERATED												
# OF OCCURRENCES	14	79	48	96	2776	89	4	40	22	7	3175	
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	1.06	2.25	3.96	5.15	3.40	1.77	.41	1.44	.27	.20	2.90	
NOT IN ROOM/NOT OPERAT												
# OF OCCURRENCES	25	114	71	87	4635	102	11	58	51	17	5171	
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	1.90	3.25	5.85	4.67	5.69	2.03	1.13	2.09	.64	.50	4.73	
IN ROOM/FIRE TOO SMALL												
# OF OCCURRENCES	10	138	61	249	2623	122		89	41	11	3344	
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	.76	3.94	5.03	13.37	3.22	2.43		3.22	.51	.32	3.05	
NO DETECTORS PRESENT												
# OF OCCURRENCES	538	2119	568	355	39271	3345	714	1703	6414	2555	57582	
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	41.03	60.52	46.86	19.06	48.22	66.69	73.60	61.63	81.16	76.26	52.67	
OTHER												
# OF OCCURRENCES	14	29	14	24	1128	58	10	31	51	33	1392	
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	1.06	.82	1.15	1.28	1.38	1.15	1.03	1.12	.64	.98	1.27	
** COLUMN TOTALS **	1311	3501	1212	1862	81431	5015	970	2763	7902	3350	109317	

TALLY-REPORT 22

LISTING OF ALL FIRE ELEMENTS BY FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE
 REPORT PERIOD - 01-01-86 THRU 12-31-86 COMPUTER RUN DATE - 04-02-87

STATE- ALL

COUNTY- ALL

FIRE DEPARTMENT- ALL

FDID - ALL

FIRE INCIDENT ELEMENTS

	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	NUMBER SERVICE INJURIES	NUMBER CIVILIAN INJURIES	NUMBER SERVICE DEATHS	NUMBER CIVILIAN DEATHS	DOLLAR LOSS
EXTENT OF SMOKE DAMAGE							
0 UNKNOWN	42782	12.8	203	174	1	52	53138657
1 CONFINED OBJECT ORIGIN	14210	4.2	61	138	1	16	22694844
2 CONFINED PART RM ORIGIN	9416	2.8	72	233		8	12951517
3 CONFINED ROOM OF ORIGIN	9407	2.8	83	330		13	18675854
4 CONF FIRE-RATED COMPAR	1610	.4	33	157		13	7870638
5 CONFINED FLOOR ORIGIN	7415	2.2	207	506	1	51	50961610
6 CONFINED BLDG ORIGIN	33260	10.0	2294	1920	2	506	1506248565
7 EXTENDED BEYOND BLDG	6178	1.8	638	292	3	90	174493504
8 NOT A STRUCTURE FIRE	9714	2.9	26	25		3	3142125
9 NO DAMAGE	20012	6.0	211	318		39	165164523
INVALID CODE	50						6024
BLANK	178115	53.6	605	931	1	192	743052472
TOTAL	332169	100.0	4433	5024	9	983	2758400333

DETECTOR PERFORMANCE

0 UNKNOWN	55456	16.6	807	661	1	226	467068594
1 IN RM OF FIRE/OPERATED	8289	2.4	271	368		38	89828560
2 NOT IN ROOM/OPERATED	6378	1.9	244	383		38	53799387
3 IN ROOM/NOT OPERATED	3189	.9	90	225		.2	18512747
4 NOT IN ROOM/NOT OPERAT	5223	1.5	142	196	1	30	22622350
5 IN ROOM/FIRE TOO SMALL	3392	1.0	15	50		2	3036722
8 NO DETECTORS PRESENT	65451	19.7	2205	2127	4	441	1341581026
9 OTHER	1977	.5	39	56	2	13	17134493
INVALID CODE	109		1	2			265279
BLANK	182705	55.0	619	956	1	183	744551175
TOTAL	332169	100.0	4433	5024	9	983	2758400333

SEEN ELSEWHERE

No smoke alarms in fatal fire; landlord jailed, fined
A landlord has been sentenced to 90 days in jail for failing to install smoke alarms in a home in South St. Louis where a 4-year-old boy was killed in a fire.

Judge Christopher Smith of the St. Louis Municipal Court ordered the landlord, Richard Lewis of Kirkwood, Mo., to bring his wife to court so that the judge could give her the same sentence, said Vincent Sabella, housing court coordinator for St. Louis. Lewis's wife, Sharon Lewis, also is an owner of the house, Sabella said.

Smith also fined Richard Lewis \$500 and indicated that he would impose the same fine on Sharon Lewis.

The fine and jail term are the maximum allowed by the ordinance requiring smoke alarms in city dwellings.

On November 14, Jacob Daniel Wiley was killed in a fire at the house. Fire fighters found the boy unconscious and wedged into a closet in the front room.

The boy's mother, Patty Wiley, 27, told authorities that she had scolded Jacob earlier in the day for sticking pieces of paper into a space heater.

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch, January 9, 1987)

Homeless burning

BOSTON (AP)—The death of a homeless man whose clothes caught fire in his makeshift shelter graphically illustrates the growing problem of homelessness in American cities, said Mayor Raymond L. Flynn, who knew the victim.

John Griffin, 55, known in the South Boston neighborhood as "Dukey," was a Navy veteran and welfare recipient who walked the beach along Dorchester Bay for the past 2½ years, according to Flynn and Police Superintendent Paul Evans.

One Saturday night, he crawled under a cement staircase behind a city bathhouse and covered the opening with planks. Evans said it was unclear whether Griffin built a fire to keep warm in the 33 degree weather, or if it was a cigarette that ignited his clothes.

Griffin apparently tried to crawl 40 feet to the bay, but collapsed. His body was found about halfway between the bathhouse and the water, Evans said. Cigarette butts and empty vodka bottles were found strewn behind the bathhouse.

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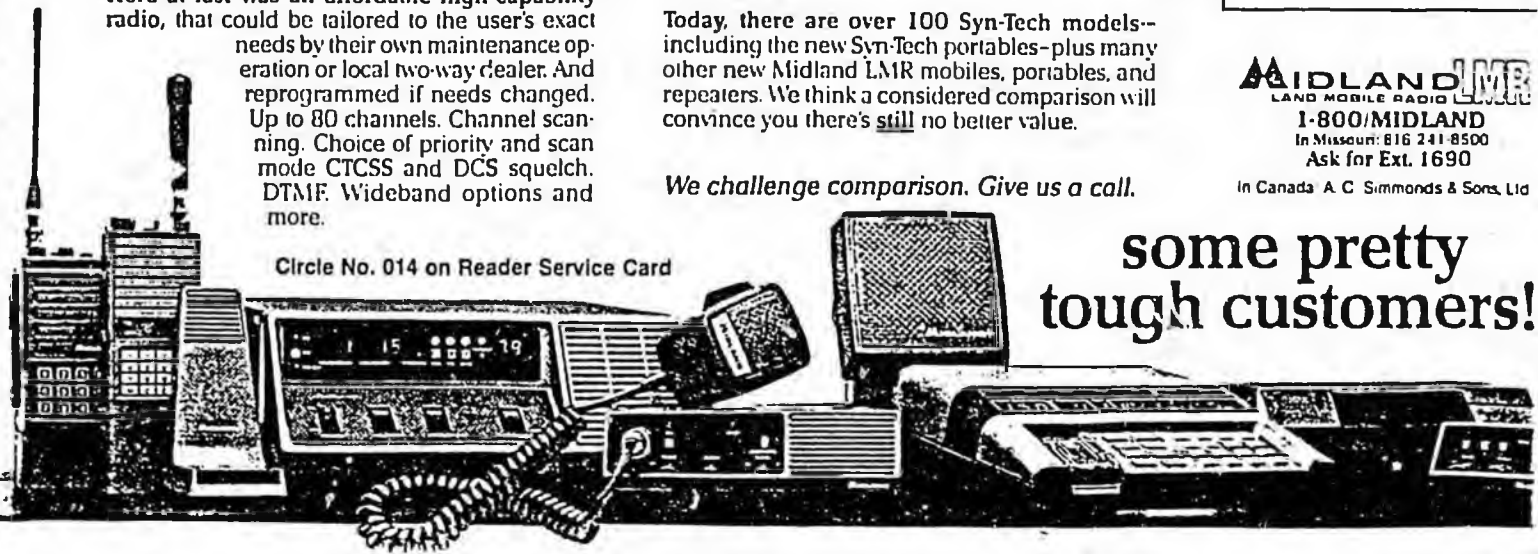
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Harold M. Knabe
Public Information Officer
Kansas City, MO Fire Department

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Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House

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State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

HOUSE BILL 282

FILE CONTENTS

1. HB 282: AN ACT RELATING TO SMOKE DETECTION DEVICES
2. SB 266: AN ACT RELATING TO SMOKE DETECTION DEVICES
3. 1986 FIRE LOSS ANALYSIS
4. POSITION PAPER, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
5. LETTER FROM REPRESENTATIVE HUDSON TO REPRESENTATIVE ULMER, DATED APRIL 28, 1987
6. STATEMENT FROM STEPHEN SHOWS, PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BUILDING OFFICIALS, ALASKA SOUTHEAST CHAPTER
7. LETTER FROM STEPHEN SHOWS TO GOVERNOR COWPER, DATED MARCH 30, 1987
8. STATE OF ALASKA, DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION, SPRING EDITION, PAGE 16
9. 1985 ANNUAL REPORT, DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
10. AS 18.70.095. SMOKE DETECTION DEVICES

FISCAL NOTE

- A. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, FIRE PREVENTION: -0-

Introduced: 4/17/87
Referred: State Affairs and
Health, Education & Social Services

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY HUDSON AND GRUENBERG

HOUSE BILL NO. 282

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to smoke detection devices."

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

8 * Section 1. AS 18.70.095 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 18.70.095. SMOKE DETECTION DEVICES. Smoke detection de-
10 vices shall be installed and maintained in all dwelling [LIVING] units
11 [BUILT, MANUFACTURED OR SOLD] in the state. The devices shall be of a
12 type and deployed in a manner approved by the state fire marshal.

13 * Sec. 2. AS 18.70.095 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

14 (b) In a dwelling unit occupied under the terms of a rental
15 agreement or under a month-to-month tenancy, the landlord shall
16 provide the smoke detection devices and the tenant shall maintain the
17 devices.

18 (c) In this section, "dwelling unit," "landlord," "rental agree-
19 ment," and "tenant" have the meanings given in AS 34.03.360.

20 effective date?

21 Enforcement → ?

22 → uninsured?

23 → effort FOR UNIFORM LAW,
24 STANDARDS

25 NOT SO MUCH A
26 CREATOR PROBLEM
27 BUT SETTING A
28 STANDARD.

Local LRU; Anselm + Joncau

New + Remodeled Building -

university -

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 4/17/87

FURTHER REFERRALS: HESS

DATE: 5-11-87

The State Affairs Committee has considered HB 282

"An Act relating to smoke detection devices."

RECOMMENDS:

[] replace with CS HB 282 (SA) [X] 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

[X] zero fiscal note

[] zero with analysis

[] same as previous fiscal note published _____

[] same as previous zero fiscal note published _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

Len Hoff

Cliff Davidson

John Wilson

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Terry Martin No Rec

Franklin

Chairman's signature

International Conference of Building Officials

Alaska Southeast Chapter

Building and Fire Safety
March 30, 1967

Governor Steve Cowper
State of Alaska

Dear Governor Cowper,

The Alaska Chapters of the International Conference of Building Officials are composed of dedicated and trained career professionals in the fields of life and property safety. Our membership represents every major municipality, several Federal and State agencies, and private sector design professionals in Alaska. We respectfully request your consideration and support of three proposals that we strongly believe to be in the best interest of all Alaskans.

1. In December 1984 the Alaska Task Force on Fire Prevention concluded that Alaska has the highest rate of fire death per capita in the western world. We would like to have you introduce an amendment to AS 18.70.095 which would require the installation of smoke detectors in all dwelling units. This action would produce the greatest potential for saving lives under currently available technology. The financial impact of this action on both rural and urban citizens would be negligible.

In addition, funding for the State Fire Commission would greatly help the efforts of those who serve in this State as firefighters, fire chiefs and construction code officials.

2. During the unprecedented construction boom of the early eighties cities and boroughs learned that increased efficiency and communication occurred when related functions were consolidated into "one-stop permit departments". They were also far less expensive to administer. The consensus of the construction industry, from our perspective, is that it would be timely for the State to adopt a similar organizational structure now that construction activity has cooled down.

Smaller Alaskan communities which have taken the initial steps to regulate construction activity within their boundaries often need continued assistance from the State because of staff limitations. The Departments of Public Safety, Labor, Environmental Conservation and others often complement the local staff. We fear that funding cuts may erode the current level of service.

Most rural communities currently have some degree of fire service personnel. In addition, larger municipalities usually provide some level of building inspection services. As an integrated extension of a State department governing fire prevention and building safety, the State could maintain a strong commitment to help train

these local government officials to deliver services within their jurisdictions. This would save the State revenue and also increase services at the local level. In most cases disputes or questions could be resolved locally with a telephone call or an appeal hearing rather than by purchasing a plane ticket and sending a State inspector out into the field. Currently disputes with State inspectors must usually be resolved in civil court.

It just makes good sense to promote State goals by having them supported and reinforced at the local level. We support consolidation of State building regulations within one department.

3. We urge your support for adoption of the 1955 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), without amendment. The objections to the UPC by the plumbers union are no more than traditional "featherbedding". The plastic pipes in dispute have been used in thousands of buildings and for many years in Alaska with no problems of fire safety, water quality, sanitation or mechanical durability. In addition to low cost, plastic pipes have many other advantages in cold climates.

We were pleased with the State's dismissal of case #4FA-53-1077 against Fairbanks. The court held that Article X, Section II of the Alaska Constitution permits local governments to adopt and enforce newer editions of the UPC than the State. Recent correspondence, however, with Commissioner Sampson indicates his reluctance to respect that decision in the other districts in Alaska. We respectfully request that your office explain to us any compelling interest the State may have in pursuing this matter beyond an examination of fire and building safety issues by our membership and the court. Please consider the time and expense involved for both sides to litigate this matter further.

The State Fire Marshal currently defers their regulatory authority to municipalities who have demonstrated an ability to enforce the fire safety provisions of the codes. This saves the State money and avoids duplication of services. We request that you review this policy with your Commissioner of Labor for implementation within all jurisdictions that have adopted and currently enforce newer versions of the UPC.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. We appreciate the opportunity to help resolve any areas of conflict that may exist and look forward to cooperating with your administration in a positive manner to promote safety related issues in Alaska.

Sincerely



Stephen O. Shows
President

8

STATE OF ALASKA

DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION

FIRE MARSHAL UNIT

SPRING EDITION 1987

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING UNIT



INSIDE

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Sylvester (Sam) Neal, Director

Alaska State Fire Marshal

HOME FIRES KILL 4,885 in 1985
Fire Chief Magazine
October 1986

Fire deaths in U.S. homes increased 19.8% in 1985 over the previous year, according to a report from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The report, "Fire Loss in the United States During 1985", stated in 1985, 4,885 people died in home fires compared to 4,075 in 1984. A total of 6,185 civilian deaths (non fire fighters) were reported, an increase of 18% over 1984.

According to a 1985 Lou Harris poll, nearly 75% of all U.S. homes have at least one smoke detector, however studies have suggested that nearly one-third of the installed smoke detectors are inoperative due to dead batteries or faulty detection mechanisms. Further studies indicate that the majority of home fires occur in homes without smoke detectors.

In 1985 a total of 2,371,000 fires in the U.S. were recorded, accounting for more than \$7.324 billion in property losses, up 9.2% over 1984. Also reported were 825 fire fatalities in road, water, and air vehicles, an increase of 30% over 1984. Approximately 770 of these fire deaths occurred in road vehicles on U.S. highways.

In 1985, 122 fire fighters died in the line of duty. This represents a 3.4% increase over 1984.

According to Dr. John R. Hall, Jr., director of fire analysis at NFPA, home fire deaths are still down 18.8% from 1978. However, return to the fire death levels of 1982 and 1983 may signal the U.S. has "reached a plateau in reducing fire deaths".

IN ALASKA, HOME FIRES KILL 26 in 1985

Out of the 26 home fire deaths there were no known operating SMOKE DETECTORS.

Nine of the 26 home fire deaths had inoperative SMOKE DETECTORS.

SMOKE DETECTORS

As in any home, smoke detectors should be installed on each living level. They should be installed and maintained as directed by the manufacturer, and in good working order.

Single-Family Dwelling, South Carolina, January 30, 1983. Electric heater too close to combustibles; two killed.

This fire in a single-story dwelling of wood-frame construction started in the living room when an electric space heater on top of a coffee table ignited books and newspapers also located on the table.

A neighbor telephoned the fire department at 4:30 am. Fire fighters attempted to rescue the two occupants while battling the fire, but were unable to reach them initially due to the intense heat and fire. Both male victims, ages 21 and 19, were found in the living room, where both had succumbed to smoke inhalation.

Officials said that one victim had fallen asleep on the couch while the other was sleeping in a back bedroom. They believe that the latter awoke and was overcome by smoke while trying to rescue his sleeping friend on the couch.

Officials believe that if smoke detectors had been installed, these two deaths could have been prevented. The fire had a head start of approximately 15 to 20 minutes because the neighbor who discovered the fire had no telephone and had to make the call at another neighbor's home.

Damage from this fire was estimated at \$55,000.



1985 ANNUAL REPORT

DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

STATE OF ALASKA

1981 - 1985 COMPARISONS

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Civilian Fire Deaths	28	16	27	35	29
Deaths/Million Pop.	64.3	34.7	54.5	66.9	54.2
Civilian Injuries	84	62	70	63	70
Firefighter Injuries	46	28	42	36	37
Number of Fires	3,119	3,109	3,214	3,680	3,475
Total Calls	7,777	10,527	14,035	14,876	14,813
\$ Losses (in millions)	\$40.6	\$42.6	\$72.8	\$34.5	\$38.3
\$ Loss per capita	\$93.29	\$92.44	\$146.98	\$65.95	\$72.56

FIRE DEATHS

Once again, Alaska leads the Nation in deaths by fire, based upon the number of fatalities per million population. Of the 29 who died, 27 were in their homes, either single or multi-family dwellings.

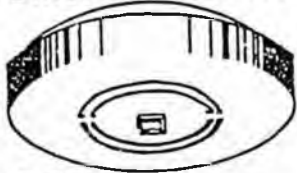
17 were males, 12 females. 10 were under the age of 9. The continued need to install and maintain smoke detectors is demonstrated by these losses.

The discussion of fire deaths would be incomplete without examining the rates. Fairbanks, for example, appears to have the highest urban fire death rate during 1985, with 148 deaths per million population, compared to Anchorage, which was 32. Similar comparisons show Naknek, for example, to have a fire death rate per million population during 1985, of 3,333. Small communities such as this, however, must be looked at over a longer period of time, as the real picture is biased by their size and experience.

Table No. 1 in the appendices lists the fatalities in Alaska since 1979 by location. Local departments are urged to compare their fatality problem with the rest of the state.

DETECTOR AND SPRINKLER PERFORMANCE

Smoke Detectors



**DON'T STAY HOME
WITHOUT ONE!**

Detectors operated in 249, or 15.5% of all structure fires. Of the 1,187 fires in residential structures, no detectors were present in 58% of the incidents.

Automatic sprinkler systems operated in 16 fires, or 1% of the incidents. It should be noted that these were all non-residential (single or two-family dwellings) properties.



Studies by the Federal Emergency Management Agency indicate that the installation of home fire sprinkler systems could save thousands of lives and prevent millions of dollars in property loss.

New technology has made fire sprinklers much more practical for residential use. Sprinkler heads are smaller, more esthetically designed and react at lower temperatures than conventional industrial fire sprinklers. In addition, installation costs and water requirements are minimal. For home builders, fire sprinklers are a low-cost safety option that would attract buyers, and the trade-offs between sprinklers and code requirements can mean lower construction costs or more units per area. For homeowners, the advantages of fire sprinklers include a safer environment for the family, protection for irreplaceable family possessions, and potentially lower insurance rates.

There is currently a movement in Alaska to encourage the installation of sprinkler systems in dwellings. Any success in this effort should see a reduction in life and property losses.

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



Bill Version: HB 282

Publish Date: _____

REQUEST: _____

Revision Date: _____
Title: An act relating to smoke detection devices.

Agency Affected: Public Safety

BRU: Fire Prevention

Sponsor: Rep. Hudson

Requestor: House State Affairs

Components: _____

EXP. NDITURES/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

CAPITAL		0	0	0	0	0
---------	--	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE		0	0	0	0	0
---------	--	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

*JVE
4/21/87*

Prepared by: Gordon E. Brunton *gbr*
Division: Fire Prevention

Phone: 465-4331
Date: 4-20-87

Approved by Commissioner: *Y [Signature]*
Agency: Public Safety

Date: 4/21/87

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