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STATE OF ALASKA
1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: CSHB 332
PUBLISH DATE: HOUSE 2/15/88

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: An act relating to the reporting
of burn injuries.
Sponsor: Rep. Kodonen
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: Public Safety
BRU: Fire Prevention
Components: _____

122

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES		0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL		0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL		3.1	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.4
SUPPLIES		0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
EQUIPMENT		3.5	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		7.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0

CAPITAL		0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE		0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		7.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		7.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See Attachment.

Prepared by: Gordon E. Brunton
Division: Fire Prevention

Phone: 465-4331
Date: 1/15/88

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
Agency: Public Safety

Date: 1-25-88

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

Alaska State Legislature
Representative Niilo Koponen

Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
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542 4th Avenue, Suite C
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-8161

POSITION PAPER

CSHB 332 (HESS) "An Act relating to the reporting of certain injuries."

According to the Alaska State Fire Marshall's Press release of December 31, 1987, Alaska arson costs ran "conservatively over seven million dollars" in 1986. HB 332 is modeled after arson legislation enacted in New York State and Massachusetts. Five states have burn injury reporting requirements in statute and eleven states have pending or recently enacted burn injury reporting systems.

According to New York State Field Representative for Arson Technical Assistance in the Office of Fire Prevention and Control, in 1987 their burn injury reporting system program was responsible for 15 arson arrest cases and 10 other cases involving child abuse. The Department of Health and the Office of Fire Prevention and Control have been working on burn prevention programs which target certain age groups. Under New York law it is a misdemeanor for not reporting an injury.

Massachusetts official, Jennifer Mietch, states that Massachusetts is tracking one arson a month through their reporting system. Ms. Mietch also states that "our reporting system has been running well - how can you fight it if you can't identify it?!"

CSHB332 (HESS) would require health care professionals attending persons with burns of over five percent of the body with second or third degree burns, or burns to the upper respiratory tract or laryngeal edema due to the inhalation of super-heated air, to make an oral report to the Department of Public Safety, a local law enforcement agency, or a village public safety officer, and to file out a brief checkoff form, supplied by the Department of Public Safety, within three working days.

During the first hearing on this bill the Department of Public Safety requested that a requirement for an oral report of gunshot and stab wounds be added to this legislation. CSHB 332 (HESS) incorporates this suggestion.

This legislation will help uncover criminal activity and enable public safety personnel to enforce the law.

STATE OF ALASKA

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

CRIMINAL DIVISION

REPLY TO:

* CRIMINAL DIVISION CENTRAL OFFICE
P.O. BOX KC
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0310
PHONE: (907) 465-3428

= OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROSECUTIONS
AND APPEALS
1031 WEST 4TH AVENUE, SUITE 315
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-5993
PHONE: (907) 279-7424

April 22, 1988

Honorable Niilo Koponen
Alaska State House
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: CSHB 322 -- reporting of burn injuries

Dear Representative Koponen:

At your request, I have reviewed CSHB 322 (HESS) am. The bill requires physicians, nurses, paramedics, hospital staff, and other health care providers to report to the police their treatment of persons suffering from gunshot wounds, non-accidental stab wounds, certain types of burns, and other non-accidental serious injuries.

An oral transmission of the report must be made promptly to a state trooper, local police department, or a local village police officer, and this must be followed by a written report within three working days after the person is treated. The written report must be on a form provided by the Department of Public Safety.

in the case of burn injuries
~~Under the current law...~~

Alaska is one of the very few states in the nation which do not require a treating physician to report gunshot or stab wounds. The absence of such a requirement under current law means that some serious assaults are never reported to law enforcement authorities, especially in the remote villages or rural areas of the state. Even if a shooting or stabbing is eventually reported to the authorities, investigation may be hampered by the passage of time and the loss of valuable evidence. Clearly accidental injuries are excluded from the laws requirements.

The benefit of this reporting requirement is two-fold. It will allow police officers to take steps to protect the victim of a crime who may be too badly injured or too frightened to report the assault. It will also allow officers to immediately investigate the apparent commission of a serious crime, and may aid in the apprehension of the offender and the protection of the public from future harm.

In light of the justified public concern about the level of violent crime in our society, and in the important public safety interests which this reporting requirement would serve, this bill will assist law enforcement efforts in this area.

Very truly yours,

GRACE BERG SCHAIBLE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: 

Stephanie E. Joannides
Assistant Attorney General

SEJ:jf-6

cc: Arthur H. Peterson
Assistant Attorney General

BILL NO: CSHB 332 (HESS) am

DATE: March 2, 1988

TITLE: An act relating to the reporting of certain injuries.

CONTACT: Gayle Horetski
465-4322

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

This bill would require health care professionals to promptly make oral reports of cases of serious burn injuries and gunshot, knife, and similar wounds to the Department of Public Safety, a local law enforcement agency, or village public safety officer. The health care professional must also, within three working days after the person is initially treated, submit a written report of all burn injuries to the Department of Public Safety on a form provided by the Department.

This bill would provide a valuable tool to assist in the apprehension of arsonists, and would give the Division of Fire Prevention a better understanding of burn injuries to assist in their prevention.

It would also provide timely notice of injuries caused by guns, knives, and similar weapons, and other injuries likely to cause death, (unless clearly accidental), that may not otherwise come to the early attention of law enforcement officers.

The Department of Public Safety strongly supports passage of CSHB 332 (HESS) am.

Gayle G. Horetski

for Arthur English
Commissioner

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 3/2/88
Title: An act relating to the reporting of certain injuries.
Sponsor: House HFSS
Requestor: Senate HESS

Agency Affected: Public Safety
BRU: Fire Prevention
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES		0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL		0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL		1.8	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7
SUPPLIES		0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
EQUIPMENT		3.5	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		5.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3
CAPITAL		0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE		0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		5.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		5.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See attachment.

Jivk
2/12/88

Prepared by: Gordon F. Brunton *SEB.* Phone: 465-4331
Division: Fire Prevention Date: 3/2/88

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature] *Dep. Comm.* Date: 3-2-88
Agency: Public Safety

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

FISCAL NOTE

CSHB 332 (HESS) am

Assumptions:

An estimated 250 burn injuries will be reported each year.

A five percent inflation factor is used for subsequent years.

Personal Services. 100 hours per year, clerical and professional time for case management and data control, for burn injuries. 30.0

Travel. 0.0

Contractual.

Printing & distribution of burn injury reporting forms to health care professionals (decrease 0.3 after first year) 1.0

Publication of periodic reports. 0.3

Supplies. Miscellaneous office supplies stationery, data storage media. 0.5

Equipment. Upgrade microcomputer hard drive/tape backup to increase data storage capacity (one-time cost). 3.5

Total 55.3

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3200 PROVIDENCE DRIVE
P.O. BOX 196604
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6004
PHONE: (907) 562-2211



SISTERS OF
PROVIDENCE

SERVING IN THE WEST SINCE 1856

April 26, 1988

Honorable Niilo Koponen
Alaska State House
P. O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Koponen:

I believe HB332 is in the best interest of the residents of Alaska and visitors to our State.

As a Registered Nurse for ten years and a Thermal Care Nurse for six years, I have cared for hundreds of individuals with thermal injuries. Some of these injuries have stemmed from questionable (maybe criminal) activities.

Accurate reporting of injuries and their causes or circumstances should be documented and available for investigation to agencies sensitive to this issue.

I would include at the end of line 25 - "or toxic products (poisonous gases) of combustion".

Sincerely,

Scott Sullivan, R.N.
Thermal Unit
Asst. Unit Manager