

**HB**

**483**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS**

**RECAP OF  
HB 483**

**Village Public Safety Officers**

Received February 7, 1990

by Reps. Hoffman, Swackhammer, Hudson, Wallis

Heard February 21, 1990

Passed Out of Committee February 21, 1990

4 Do Pass

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# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: February 7, 1990

FURTHER REFERRALS:

FINANCE

Date of Committee Action: \_\_\_\_\_

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 483

HOUSE BILL NO. 483

VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

"An Act amending the definition of 'peace officer' in the Alaska Statutes to include village public safety officers."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_  the same title
- have 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):  
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

(Date/Dept)

- fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_  fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal note \_\_\_\_\_  zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- zero with analysis Pub. Safety  zero fn/analysis \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING:  
(Check approp. column)

Do Not Pass No Rec Amend

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend

\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman's Signature

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Affected: Public Safety  
Title: Village Public Safety Officers  
Added to Definition of Peace Officer BRU: Alaska State Troopers  
Sponsor: Representative Hoffman, etc. Component: Detachments  
Requestor: House State Affairs

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (Inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

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

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER/PROG RCPT						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact anticipated.

Prepared by: Francis C. Allan  
Division: Alaska State Troopers

Phone: 269-5691  
Date: 02/14/90

Approved by Commissioner: Arthur English  
Agency: Department of Public Safety

Date: 2-20-90  
Page 1 of 1

STATE OF ALASKA



LYMAN F. HOFFMAN  
CO-CHAIRMAN  
HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

P. O. BOX V  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
(907) 465-3706

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 25

- AKIACHAK
- AKIAK
- ATMAUTLUAK
- BETHEL
- CHEFORNAK
- EEL
- GOODNEWS BAY
- KASIGLUK
- KIPNUK
- KONGIGANAK
- KWETHLUK
- KWIGILLINGOK
- MEKORYUK
- NAPAKJAK
- NAPASKJAK
- NEWTOK
- NIGHTMUTE
- NUNAPITCHUK
- OSCARVILLE
- PLATINUM
- QUINHAGAK
- TOKSOOK BAY
- TUNTUTULIAK
- TUNUNAK

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Red Boucher  
Chairman, House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Lyman Hoffman *LH*  
Co-Chairman, House Finance Committee

DATE: January 16, 1990

SUBJ: House Bill 483

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I have introduced House Bill 483, "An Act amending the definition of 'peace officer' in the Alaska Statutes to include village public safety officers", because these young men and women are on the front line providing law enforcement, fire protection, and search and rescue services in rural Alaska.

VPSOs are important role models for the residents, especially children, of villages. To have a relative or local resident apply, leave home, work toward, and graduate from the Sitka Trooper Academy and then go home as a Village Public Safety Officer to keep the "peace" is a proud accomplishment. It must be realized that VPSOs replace the perception of villagers that 'peace officers' are not just troopers who usually come to the villages only when something really bad happens in the community. VPSOs are extensions of our Alaska State Troopers, we should believe in them by recognizing them as 'peace officers'.

Though the Alaska State Troopers do provide direct oversight of the VPSO corps, a single VPSO is assigned to any given village at one time. These dedicated individuals are expected to work a forty-hour week, and at any time without after-hours compensation, are expected by the residents of their assigned village and supervisors to keep the "peace". Overtime pay is not the issue on this legislation, it is to recognize the Village Public Safety Officers as 'peace officers'.

As is true elsewhere in our society, insurance and the liability costs associated with VPSOs are high and are the responsibility of the non-profits. The Alaska State Troopers have contracted with the non-profits generally holding the State harmless from liability for the negligent actions of the VPSOs. It is not entirely clear that the current contract language would fully protect the State given the decisions of the Alaska Supreme Court which limit the ability of the State to shift liability to State contractors. Insurance costs are negotiated as a reimbursable item within the Trooper/non-profits contracts, with last year's contract limited to \$800 per VPSO. In today's dynamic insurance market, this limit may be liveable one year, but totally inadequate the next year. Non-profits experience insurance cost fluctuations as much as a 100% on an annual basis, so it is difficult to assess the direction and amount of these insurance costs. However, if the non-profits could participate in the State Risk Management pool, the State could directly control insurance costs and assure the lowest coverage cost state-wide.

The intent of this legislation is to rightfully identify VPSOs as 'peace officers' and that VPSO contractors may be allowed to participate in the State Risk Management pool.

If there are any questions concerning this proposed legislation, please contact my office at your earliest opportunity.

Thank you.

ENLARGE NON-PROFIT. GET RESOURCES WITH  
STATE RISK - LEADERSHIP POOL - ASSURE - COVER  
ADDITIONAL COST -

Item 4

BILL NO: HB 483

DATE: February 20, 1990

TITLE: Including Village Public Safety Officers in the Definition of a Peace Officer

CONTACT: Capt. Glenn Godfrey  
Alaska State Troopers  
269-5647

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

This legislation adds Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) to the definition of "peace officer" and makes minor technical changes to existing law. This change would clarify the authority of VPSOs who are called upon to take enforcement actions. It would also improve the eligibility of VPSOs for federal and state death benefits payable to law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

The Department of Public Safety supports this legislation.

*Wayle A. H. ...*  
for Arthur English  
Commissioner

b. Example / Checklist Contact sheet

LEGISLATIVE SPONSOR: House State Affairs

TC DATE/DAY: Wed Feb 21

Pub. Hear Work Ses. Inv. Hear

TIME: 8:30 Am - 10 Am

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: HB483

JUNEAU ROOM: Cap 102

SUBJECT: Village Public Safety Officers

BRIDGE: \_\_\_\_\_

# OF PORTS: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT: Ann PH: 4963

DATE TAKEN/BY: 2/15/90 Debbie

ok 2/20/90 Bob. Changes 2/20 - had to xl in for

\*\*\*\*\*

TELECONFERENCE SITES:

LIO'S

LTC'S

VTS'S

Anchorage  
Barrow \*

Homer  
Wrangell

See List on  
Reverse Side

Bethel  
Delta Junction \*

Dillingham \*

Fairbanks

Glennallen \*

Juneau *per Bob@Heffman's office*

Ketchikan

Kodiak

Kotzebue

Mat-Su

Nome

Petersburg \*

Sitka

Soldotna

Valdez \*

ALL LIO'S

OTHER SITES WELCOME WITH PRIOR NOTIFICATION

*added by Becky*

*Josie Stiles - Cox*  
OFFNETS: 443-5231  
Kawerak Inc.  
Pouch 948  
Nome, AK 99762  
Fax - 443-2985

CHAIRING SITE: Juneau

CHAIRPERSON: Boucher

[ ] CONFORMS TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL POLICY 4/85

SIGNATURE OF SPONSOR/CONTACT PERSON

DATE

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS