

HB385

File

(11)

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred: February 21, 1992

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 3/2/92

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 385

HOUSE BILL NO. 385

STATE EMPLOYEE VDT SAFETY

"An Act relating to video display terminals."

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with CS HB 385 (L.C)  the same title

a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_

fiscal note(s) Admin 2/18/92

zero fiscal note \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) labor 2/18/92

S. <u>NING DO PASS</u>	DP	<u>OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS</u>	DNP	NR	AM
<u>J. Ulmer</u> Ulmer	X	<u>Barbara Barnes</u> Barnes		X	
<u>Mark Bayer</u> Bayer	X	<u>Rob Phillips</u> Phillips		X	
<u>Tom Brown</u> BROWN	✓	<u>Bob Sharp</u> Sharp			✓
<u>Thomas Koonen</u> Koonen	✓	<u>Ed Mallick</u> Mallick		X	
<u>John Jacko</u> JACKO	✓				
<u>Mike Navarre</u> NAVARRE	✓				

Mike Navarre EDWIN

**FISCAL NOTE**

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO. HB 385**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Affected: Administration

Title: Relating to video display terminals.

BRU: Personnel/OEEO

Component: Personnel/OEEO

Sponsor: Ulmer

Requestor: House State Affairs

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL	8.0	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
CONTRACTUAL	20.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>

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

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE: <i>VA Rec't</i>	28.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)  
 See Attached.

Prepared by: R. H. King, Director  
 Division: Personnel/OEEO

Phone: 465-4430  
 Date: January 28, 1992

Approved by Commissioner: Nancy Bear Usera  
 Agency: Administration

Date: 1/28/92

Distribution (by preparer): Leg. Fin., Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB/DBR, Gov. Legis. Ofc., & Impacted Agency(ies).

**FISCAL NOTE**

**STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO. HB 385**

**ANALYSIS: (continued)**

This bill requires the Department of Administration to train employees designated by all agencies on the hazards of video display terminals and the measures that may be taken to avoid or lessen those hazards. We estimate that 500 employees will need to be trained initially. For this initial training, it is cost effective to take the training to the various locations. First year costs are for the development of the training, preparation and printing of required notices, course negotiation and contracted instructor costs. Travel for delivering the training throughout the state is provided.

For the second and subsequent years, we anticipate offering the training twice annually, but only in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks. Agencies will be expected to send their new designated employees to one of these courses.

Interagency receipts are shown as the funding source on the assumption that agencies will pay the costs. If that assumption is incorrect, the funding source will be general funds.

**FISCAL NOTE**

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO :** HB 385

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: "An Act relating to video display terminals."  
 Sponsor: Representatives Ulmer, B. Davis  
 Requestor: House State Affairs

Department Affected: Labor  
 BRU: Workers' Compensation & Admin. Svcs.  
 Component: Workers' Compensation & Labor Market Information  
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 344 & 336

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>CAPITAL</b>						
<b>REVENUE FUND SOURCE:</b>						

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: None

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)  
 This bill requires a report to be prepared by the Department of Labor concerning video display terminal injuries. The department can report to the legislature on injuries identified on the Initial Report of Occupational Injury Form completed by both the employee and employer and collected by the Workers' Compensation Division. There would be no additional fiscal impact to the department.

Prepared by: Arbe Williams, Special Assistant Phone: 465-2700  
 Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 1/28/92  
 Approved by Commissioner: John Abshire, Acting Commissioner  
 Agency: Department of Labor Date: 1/28/92

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

**Bill No:** House Bill No. 385

**Date:** January 28, 1992

**Title:** "An Act relating to video display terminals."

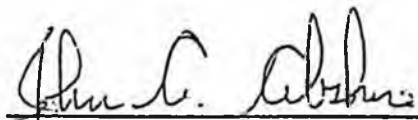
**Contact:** Arbe Williams  
465-2700

House Bill No. 385 requires that information and training be provided by the State Department of Administration to designated state employees who will provide information to other state employees concerning the hazards and safe use of video display terminals. The bill also stipulates standards for the purchase or lease of office equipment related to video display terminal work stations and requires reports to the legislature from the Department of Administration and Department of Labor.

The bill is attempting to provide a hazard-free work site for state employees who use a video display terminal. The Department of Labor will be required to report on or before January 15, 1993 and January 15, 1994 concerning injuries/illnesses to state employees arising from the use of video display terminals in the work place. Given our current resources, we can report to the legislature concerning injuries/illnesses as they are identified on the initial Report of Occupational Injury form completed by both the employee and the employer. Specific data on injuries/illnesses caused by video display terminals is currently not collected.

The Department of Labor supports safety measures that will contribute toward providing a hazard-free work site for employees.

APPROVED:



John A. Abshire, Acting Commissioner  
Department of Labor

**POSITION PAPER/Department of Labor**

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 385 (LABOR AND COMMERCE)  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/21/92  
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) the use of video display terminals poses a significant health and safety risk to the  
5 workers of the state;

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

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

1 (e) This section does not  
2 (1) create a cause of action by any person against the state or an agency of the  
3 state, whether at law or otherwise;  
4 (2) establish a standard of care;  
5 (3) amend or alter administrative remedies of employees; or  
6 (4) amend or alter collective bargaining agreements entered into by the state or an  
7 agency of the state.

8 (f) In this section,  
9 (1) "agency" or "state agency" includes the executive, legislative, and judicial  
10 branches of state government, the University of Alaska, and the Alaska Railroad Corporation;  
11 (2) "qualified worksite" means a unit or cluster of at least four video display  
12 terminals in regular use that are housed together or in close proximity within the same agency;  
13 (3) "terminal" or "video display terminal" means an electronic video screen data  
14 presentation machine, commonly called a video display terminal, and includes cathode-ray tubes;  
15 "terminal" does not include a television, cash register, or oscilloscope screen.

16 \* Sec. 3. REPORTS. (a) The Department of Administration shall report to the legislature one year  
17 and two years after the effective date of this section on implementation of the training program and the  
18 equipment purchase requirements of AS 39.90.160, enacted by sec. 2 of this Act.

19 (b) The Department of Labor shall report to the legislature on or before January 15, 1993, and  
20 January 15, 1994, concerning injuries related to video display terminals that are identified in the initial  
21 report of occupational injuries.

22 \* Sec. 4. INITIAL TRAINING AND POSTING OF NOTICES. The Department of Administration  
23 shall comply promptly with the requirements for preparation of notices and provision of training so that,  
24 within one year after the effective date of this Act, state agencies will have been able to comply with  
25 the requirements for posting notices and training current employees set out in AS 39.90.160, enacted by  
26 sec. 2 of this Act.

# Alaska State Legislature

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



### REPRESENTATIVE FRAN ULMER

#### MEMORANDUM

February 28 1992

TO: All Members  
House Finance Committee

FROM: Rep. Fran Ulmer

RE: CSHB 385 (Labor and Commerce) - Video Display Terminals

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This legislation is schedule for consideration under the Consent Agenda for Monday, March 2, 1992.

HB 385 has a "revenue neutral" 28.5 fiscal note from the Department of Administration. The funds will be generated through interagency receipts to be shared among all 15 state agencies. Both previous committees of referral have unanimously supported passage of HB 385.

HB 385 was created in response to a growing health problem among state workers who spend long hours in front of their Video Display Terminals (VDTs). VDT workplace injuries include eye strain, wrist, back and neck injuries, and a host of ailments dubbed "repetitive strain injuries" or RSI.

HB 385 seeks to remedy this situation for state workers by:

- \* Requiring the training of supervisory staff about the causes and remedies of VDT related injuries.
- \* Requiring the posting of notices in the workplace to advise state employees about the safe use of Video Display Terminals.
- \* Requiring that future purchases and installation of office furniture and equipment meet engineering standards to reduce the health risks associated with VDTs.
- \* Requiring the Department of Administration to report to the legislature on the implementation of the requirements after the first and second years following passage of the bill.

By acting now to answer the health concerns of state workers, we will also be saving the state money by eliminating the causes of a growing number of health insurance claims.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this legislation.



# Alaska State Legislature

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



### REPRESENTATIVE FRAN ULMER

MEMORANDUM

February 21, 1992

*Y. Ulmer*  
TO: Rep. Mike Navarre, Chair  
House Finance Committee

FROM: Rep. Fran *Ulmer*

RE: HB 385 - Video Display Terminals

I am requesting a hearing on this legislation at your earliest convenience.

HB 385 has a fiscal note of 28.5 from the Department of Administration for the first year of implementation. These funds will be generated through interagency receipts shared with all state agencies. The cost for following years is estimated at 6.0, also through interagency receipts.

HB 385 was created in response to a growing health problem among state workers who spend long hours in front of their Video Display Terminals (VDTs). VDT workplace injuries include eye strain, stress and musculoskeletal disorders (wrist, back and neck injuries) including host of ailments dubbed "repetitive strain injuries" or RSI.

According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, disorders associated with repetitive strain injuries now rank among the highest reported workplace injuries (more than 52%). For instance, in recent years the cases of carpal tunnel syndrome (swelling of tendons in the wrist) have increased more rapidly than any other job related illness. Insurance industry sources believe that keyboard operators are one of the highest at-risk groups.

In many cases, the remedy for these conditions already exists in the workplace. Educating workers on the proper positioning of VDT monitors, keyboards and chairs can go a long way to alleviating this problem. However, phasing out or remodeling "unhealthy" work station configurations and furniture is also essential.



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HB 385 seeks to remedy this situation for state workers by:

- \* Requiring the training of supervisory staff about the causes and remedies of VDT related hazards.
- \* Requiring the posting of notices in the workplace to advise state employees about the hazards and safe use of Video Display Terminals.
- \* Requiring that future purchases of office furniture and equipment meet engineering standards that reduce the health risks associated with VDTs.
- \* Requiring the Department of Administration to report to the legislature on the implementation of the requirements after the first and second years following passage of the bill.

Think of HB 385 as a dose of preventative medicine. By moving now to answer the health concerns of state workers, we will also be saving the state money by eliminating the causes of a growing number of health insurance claims.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this legislation.



# Alaska Health Project

Information and advocacy on occupational and environmental health.  
1818 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 103, Anchorage, Alaska 99517  
(907) 276-2864 In State 800-478-2664 Fax 907-279-3089 Modem 907-279-3128

January 23, 1992

Representative Ulmer  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Ulmer:

The Alaska Health Project has for the past twelve years advocated for improved safety and health at the work place. We are in support of HB 385 on Video Display Terminals. The use of the keyboard and computer have become the basic tools for much of the State's work force. It is very important that any tool be used wisely and with precautions to prevent injury.

The video display terminal has many associated health problems including the position of the users hands, arms, back, legs, and neck and head. Working for many hours with limited breaks in physical posture creates strain on many body parts. An ergonomic review of any process that is repetitive and requires the body to maintain a particular position will show multiple areas of stress.

The incidence of spontaneous abortions among users of VDTs was first thought to be due to the electromagnetic fields. Upon further research it was found that it was due to long periods of the body being held in tension, in one position. This working position stress reduced circulation to the abdomen and contributed to the miscarriages. It is now recommended that any user of a keyboard be allowed a ten minute alternative work activity for each fifty minutes of typing. This stimulation of the body reduces stress and improves health.

We support HB 385. We would like to see it expanded in two areas. First, we would like to see it deal with the ergonomic concerns of all State employees in office activities. This would include individuals who are required to stand at counters or photocopy machines for extended periods. It should also deal with those who use standard keyboards on typewriters or calculators for long continuous periods.

Second, we would like to see it deal with the electromagnetic fields associated with electronic equipment.

Representative Ulmer

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This would include video display terminals, computers, copiers, blue line machines, laminators and other equipment which give off electromagnetic radiation. It is important to know where these machines are located, the extent of their fields as they pass through walls and floors, and how frequently employees are required to be within those fields. It is true that the exact impact of electromagnetic fields is currently under debate, however, the more recent investigations are finding that there does seem to be an increase in cancer promotion for those who regularly work in electromagnetic fields.

We support HB 385 and urge that it move forward. If possible we would appreciate inclusion of the above concerns to broaden the bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Kris Benson for*

Carl M. Hild, M.S.. Sci.Mgmt.  
Executive Director

PLEASE MICROFILM TOP PAGE ONLY

DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN  
FILMED BUT ARE AVAILABLE IN THE  
ORIGINAL FILE INCLUDE:

- NEWS Clippings Re: VDT's
- Legislative Research Agency Request 92.043  
Repetitive Strain Injury Associated with Use of  
Video Display Terminals