

SCR21

# [ ] USE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: May 13, 1991

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 5-15-91

The FINANCE Committee considered:

CSSCR 21(L&C)

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21 (L&C)

TASK FORCE ON SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

Establishing a Task Force on Safety in the Workplace.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_

CSSCR 21 (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) LAA 4-26-91

LABOR 4-26-91

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

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

| SIGNING <u>DO PASS</u>     | DP | OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS     | DNP | NR | AM |
|----------------------------|----|---------------------------|-----|----|----|
| <i>Frank Wilmer</i>        | X  | <i>Ronald J. Fournier</i> |     | X  |    |
| <i>Dorinda L. Barnes</i>   |    | <i>Roll &amp; Bell</i>    |     | ✓  |    |
| <i>George T. Adams Jr.</i> | X  | <i>Best A. Murphy</i>     |     | ✓  |    |
| <i>Harold</i>              | ✓  | <i>EP Machean</i>         |     | ✓  |    |
| <i>Fan P. O'Malley</i>     | ✓  |                           |     |    |    |
| <i>Markenholz</i>          | X  |                           |     |    |    |
| <i>Mike Savare</i>         |    |                           |     |    |    |
|                            |    |                           |     |    |    |
|                            |    |                           |     |    |    |
|                            |    |                           |     |    |    |
|                            |    |                           |     |    |    |

*Mike Savare EP Machean*  
CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

FISCAL NOTE

No. 3

Bill Version: CS5CR21(a+c)

(S) Publish Date: 4/26/91

STATE OF ALASKA  
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Establishing a Task Force on Safety  
in the Workplace.  
Sponsor: Senator Collins  
Requestor: Senate Finance

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency  
BRU: Legislative Council  
Legislative Operating Budget  
Component: Council & Subcommittees  
Session Expenses & Legis Oper Budget

COMPONENT SERIAL NO: 783

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING              | FY 92       | FY 93       | FY 94    | FY 95    | FY 96    | FY 97    |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES      | 53.2        | 26.6        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| TRAVEL                 | 10.9        | 5.5         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| CONTRACTUAL            | 28.0        | 14.0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| SUPPLIES               | 0           | 0           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| EQUIPMENT              | 0           | 0           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| LAND & STRUCTURES      |             |             |          |          |          |          |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS         |             |             |          |          |          |          |
| MISCELLANEOUS          |             |             |          |          |          |          |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>92.1</b> | <b>46.1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

|         |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAPITAL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|         |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| REVENUE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

|               |             |             |          |          |          |          |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| GENERAL FUND  | 92.1        | 46.1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | 0           | 0           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| OTHER         | 0           | 0           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>92.1</b> | <b>46.1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

POSITIONS:

|           |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FULL-TIME | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PART-TIME | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TEMPORARY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The following is requested to adequately support the Task Force on Safety in the Workplace:

Prepared By: Pamela A. Stoops, Director  
Division: Administrative Services

*Pamela A. Stoops*

Phone: 465-3850  
Date: 4/23/91

Approved By: Warren W. Endicott, Executive Director  
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

*Warren W. Endicott*

Date: 4/23/91

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

## PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Staff is requested as follows to assist the Task Force on Safety in the Workplace.

|                           |                 |  |      |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--|------|
| Researcher - Range 17A    |                 |  |      |
| \$3,156 x 12 months =     | \$37,872        |  |      |
| \$37,872 x 40% benefits = | \$15,322        |  |      |
|                           | <u>\$53,194</u> |  | 53.2 |

## TRAVEL

It is anticipated there will be 2 meetings of the 12 member Task Force on Safety in the Workplace.

|                                      |  |     |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----|
| 2 meetings x 7 members = 14 airfares |  |     |
| 14 airfares x \$436 = \$6,104        |  |     |
| 2 days per diem x 14 = 28            |  |     |
| 28 days x \$100 = 2,800              |  | 8.9 |

Two members of the Senate and two members of the House of Representatives travel will be absorbed within the existing Legislative Operating & Session budgets. Travel costs for the appointee from the Department of Labor will be absorbed within the existing budget of the Department of Labor.

|                        |  |     |
|------------------------|--|-----|
| Staff Travel - \$2,000 |  | 2.0 |
|------------------------|--|-----|

## CONTRACTUAL

|   |  |      |
|---|--|------|
| Advertising - advertising of public notice of meetings - \$3,000; |  | 3.0  |
| Professional Services - \$25,000.                                 |  | 25.0 |

## SUPPLIES

Supply needs will be absorbed within the existing Legislative Operating & Session budgets.

## EQUIPMENT

Equipment needs will be absorbed within the existing Legislative Operating & Session budgets.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL

No. 4  
Bill Version: CS SCR 21/4  
(S) Publish Date: 4/26/91  
UPDATED

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: " Establishing a Task Force on  
Safety in the Workplace."  
Sponsor: Senator Collins  
Requestor: Senate Finance

Department Affected: Labor  
BRU: Labor Standards & Safety  
Component: Occupational Safety & Health  
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 970

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING         | FY 92 | FY 93 | FY 94 | FY 95 | FY 96 | FY 97 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| TRAVEL            |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| CONTRACTUAL       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| SUPPLIES          |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| EQUIPMENT         |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| LAND&STRUCTURES   |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| GRANTS.CLAIMS     |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| MISCELLANEOUS     |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| TOTAL OPERATING   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   |
| CAPITAL           |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| REVENUE           |       |       |       |       |       |       |

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

|               |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| GENERAL FUND  |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| FEDERAL FUNDS |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| OTHER         |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| TOTAL         | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

POSITIONS:

|           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| FULL-TIME |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PART-TIME |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TEMPORARY |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This fiscal note assumes the Department of Labor would not be responsible for providing funding for the task force.

Prepared by: Bob Libbey, Director Phone: 264-2452  
Division: Labor Standards & Safety Date: 4/22/91

Approved by Commissioner: Nancy Bear Usera Date: 4/22/91  
Agency: Department of Labor

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

FIN

## CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21 (L&amp;C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/12/91  
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATOR COLLINS

## A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a Task Force on Safety in the Workplace.

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 WHEREAS the social and economic consequences of workplace injuries are enormous, estimated  
4 by the National Safety Council to have been \$42,400,000,000 in 1987 nationwide; and5 WHEREAS many Alaskans are involved in industries that traditionally have high accident rates;  
6 and7 WHEREAS the state has one of the highest workplace accident rates of any state and has the  
8 highest fatality rate of any state attributable to accidents in the workplace, approximately 34 fatalities  
9 per 100,000 workers; and10 WHEREAS for over 10 years approximately one out of every 11 Alaskan workers in private  
11 industry suffered a recordable injury or illness during employment; and12 WHEREAS in the state the total estimated lost workdays due to job related injury or illness in  
13 the private sector in 1987 amounted to the equivalent of a full year of work for 337 employees at a cost  
14 equal to nearly \$9,000,000, and in the public sector total estimated lost work days amounted to the  
15 equivalent of 58 employee years at a cost equal to approximately \$1,800,000; and

16 WHEREAS occupational injuries and illnesses impose a real burden upon the Alaskan economy

1 since, for the worker, being absent from work due to an accident may represent a significant wage loss  
2 and, for the employer, accidents result in lost production time, increased operating costs from higher  
3 insurance premiums, and equipment damage; and

4 **WHEREAS** the best way to control these costs is through an effective safety program; and

5 **WHEREAS** when the United States Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act  
6 (OSHA) in 1970 it was to "assure . . . so far as possible, every working man and woman in the Nation  
7 safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources"; and

8 **WHEREAS** despite the lofty objective of OSHA the tragic toll taken in the workplace in lives  
9 and health continues; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Americans with Disabilities Act, passed by the Congress last year, sets out  
11 standards that the state must address; and

12 **WHEREAS** in the state many safety standards have not been updated since they were originally  
13 developed and laws related to safety standards are in need of revision; and

14 **WHEREAS** a unified effort is needed to update safety standards with input coming from  
15 management and labor;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Task Force on Safety in the  
17 Workplace is established with the primary purpose of creating a model workplace safety program for  
18 the state with emphasis on prevention of injuries in the workplace, and that in creating the program the  
19 task force may

20 (1) examine the historical workplace safety record of the state;

21 (2) determine the causes for the state's high rate of injuries;

22 (3) review the state's current workplace safety laws and OSHA;

23 (4) consult with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and with the  
24 American National Standards Institute;

25 (5) propose legislation to implement the program; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall consist of the following members:

27 (1) two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom  
28 shall be designated by the president as co-chair;

29 (2) two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House,  
30 one of whom shall be designated by the speaker as co-chair;

31 (3) one employee of the Department of Labor appointed by the Governor;

32 (4) one person who represents businesses with 25 or fewer employees, one person who

1 represents businesses with over 25 employees, one person who represents organized labor, one safety  
2 engineer, one medical professional, and one member of the Alaska Safety Advisory Council, all of whom  
3 are appointed by the members listed in (1) - (3) of this resolve;

4 (5) at the option of the members listed in (1) - (4) of this resolve and appointed by them,  
5 one person who represents the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, within funds made available for the purpose, the task force may  
7 hire staff, contract for services under the procurement procedures adopted by the Alaska Legislative  
8 Council with approval of the council, and cover other expenses; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall report its initial findings and recommendations  
10 to the Governor and the legislature by the first day of the Second Regular Session of the Seventeenth  
11 Alaska State Legislature; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to  
13 the Governor and the legislature by the day of the convening of the First Regular Session of the  
14 Eighteenth Alaska State Legislature, and that the task force is terminated on that same day at 11:59 p.m.



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE

SENATOR VIRGINIA COLLINS

P.O. Box V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### Senate Concurrent Resolution 21

Senate Concurrent Resolution 21, "Establishing a Task Force on Safety in the Workplace," sets up a task force to create a model workplace safety program for the State of Alaska.

The primary focus of the Task Force on Safety in the Workplace would be on prevention of injuries rather than trying to remedy problems after the accident, fatality, or illness has occurred. The task force would create a model workplace safety program with that emphasis on prevention.

Nationally, Alaska has one of the highest workplace accident rates and the highest workplace fatality rate.

Workplace injuries burden the Alaska economy. Both the worker and the employer are negatively affected. In addition to physical and emotional effects, the worker suffers financially due to significant wage losses. The employer suffers in lost production time, higher insurance premiums which increase operation costs, and equipment damage.

The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), passed in 1970, was to "assure...so far as possible, every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources."

Yet the tragic toll taken in the workplace in lives, safety, and health persists. In Alaska, and on the federal level, many safety standards have not been updated for over 20 years. Consequently, many of our laws are in need of revision. As an unfortunate result, Alaska has a piecemeal workplace safety program.

The task force would examine Alaska's past workplace safety record, determine causes of the state's high rate of injuries, review current laws, consult with workplace safety institutes, and propose legislation to implement the program.

SCR 21 is supported by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, the Alaska AFL-CIO, the National Federation of Small Business Alaska, and the Department of Labor. It passed the Senate by a 17-1 vote.

I would appreciate your support and co-sponsorship of this resolution. Thank you.

## FATALITY RATES 1983 - 1989

|             | <b>United States</b> | <b>Alaska</b> |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>1983</b> | 5.6                  | 15.3          |
| <b>1984</b> | 6.4                  | 14.7          |
| <b>1985</b> | 6.2                  | 16.1          |
| <b>1986</b> | 5.9                  | 14.8          |
| <b>1987</b> | 5.4                  | 29.0          |
| <b>1988</b> | 4.4                  | 15.4          |
| <b>1989</b> | -                    | 2.3           |

## ILLNESS RATES USING A BASE OF 10,000 WORKERS

|             | <b>United States</b> | <b>Alaska</b> |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>1984</b> | 18.4                 | 21.4          |
| <b>1985</b> | 18.0                 | 28.7          |
| <b>1986</b> | 19.2                 | 23.2          |
| <b>1987</b> | 26.4                 | 38.6          |
| <b>1988</b> | 32.2                 | 31.2          |
| <b>1989</b> | -                    | 53.7          |

217 Second Street, Suite 201

Juneau, Alaska 99801

APR 25 1991

(907) 586-2323

FAX (907) 463-5515



April 24, 1991

Senator Virginia M. Collins  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Collins:

Please accept this letter as a statement of strong support for CSSCR 21, Establishing a Task Force on Safety in the Workplace.

The membership of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce is a composite of responsible employers throughout Alaska and we are very concerned over the continuing problem of worker injuries. It is not simply a matter of significant financial cost, it is a matter of valuable individual employees being placed at risk because of unsafe practices. We find it refreshing to see a piece of legislation which focuses on prevention rather than punishment. You have our collective thanks for your desire to take a positive approach to this serious problem.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ernie".

Ernest E. Polley  
Government Relations

# NFIB Alaska

National Federation of  
Independent Business

May 2, 1991

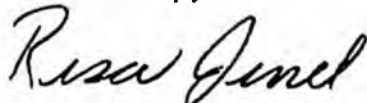
The Honorable Virginia Collins  
Alaska State Senate  
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Collins:

On behalf of NFIB/Alaska 5240 members I would like to offer our support of your SCR 21 - the Task Force on Safety in the Workplace. We are in favor of the Resolution because the increasing cost of Workers Compensation insurance is a very serious concern to our membership. Your resolution will create a model workplace safety program for the state with emphasis on the prevention of injuries. Anything that can help prevent injuries certainly will have an effect on the "experience" factor in setting Workers Compensation rates.

We appreciate your interest in the prevention of injuries to our employees and possible relief in the increasing cost of insurance. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Resa Jerrel  
State Director

State Office  
9159 Skywood Lane  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 789-4278



The Guardian of  
Small Business

# ALASKA STATE AFL-CIO

2501 Commercial Dr.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 258-6284



819 1st Ave.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 456-2030

MANO FREY  
Executive President

GARY BROOKS  
Secretary / Treasurer

April 23, 1991

Senator Pat Pourchot  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: SCR 21

Dear Senator Pourchot,

We have reviewed SCR 21 which establishes a Task Force on Safety in the Workplace and the Alaska State AFL-CIO strongly supports the resolution.

The workplace in Alaska has the highest fatality rate and one of the highest accident rates in the nation. Because safety is an issue that affects everyone, organized labor has an ongoing concern about safety and illness for all workers in Alaska.

Alaska's statutes and regulations need to be updated and strengthened. Technological changes over the past few decades have brought about new workplace safety issues that need to be addressed. Only through a balanced and unified process, as outlined in SCR 21, are such things possible. We believe this task force is a positive step in the right direction.

Thank you for your sincere consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Pat Smutz  
Business Representative

ADW 10/10/89

## Mill worker dies

The Associated Press

SITKA — A worker died early Wednesday in an accident at the Alaska Pulp Corp. mill, the company reported.

Joseph E. Lau, 28, of Sitka was killed at 6 a.m. as he was changing a 18-foot-wide pulp roll. Police said Lau was killed when he fell or got caught on rollers.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila, and two children.

# Pilot, mill worker die in separate accidents

By BARBARA ROGERS

Times Writer

9/28/89 - Times

Separate accidents killed two men as an Anchorage pilot in a homebuilt airplane crashed in Palmer and a sawmill employee was crushed in a Ketchikan industrial accident Wednesday.

The pilot, whose name was not released this morning pending notification of his family, took off from Anchorage International Airport about 8 p.m. Wednesday en route to the Birchwood Airstrip, Palmer and then back to Anchorage, said Paul Steucke of the Federal Aviation Administration.

He was reported overdue by his wife at 10 p.m. and a helicopter search was begun by Alaska State Troopers this morning, Steucke said.

The wreckage of his homebuilt Long-Eze was found spread over a swampy area of the Matanuska River Park about 8:30 a.m. today after searchers picked up a signal from the aircraft's emergency locator transmitter, said Palmer Police Department Sgt. Greg Carpenter.

The body of the pilot was found in the cockpit of the single-seater, Carpenter said. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

In Ketchikan, a 60-year-old man died Wednesday afternoon when he was crushed between a gate and an upper structural bar at Ketchikan Sawmill, troopers report.

Dead is Francis K. Glover, who was leaning on a hydraulically operated gate when the gate lifted him, crushing his body, troopers and a Ketchikan Pulp Co. spokesman said.

Also Wednesday, in a traffic accident on Minnesota Drive just south of Tudor Road, two small boys were injured when the station wagon they were riding in was struck from the rear by another car.

Michael Nichols, 5, was in fair condition this morning while Justin Bushre, 7, was in serious condition at Providence Hospital, a spokeswoman said today. Both received head injuries in the accident, said Sgt. Greg Stewart of the Anchorage Police Department.

Stewart said the station wagon was southbound on Minnesota Drive when its engine quit as the car was about halfway up the bridge over the Alaska Railroad tracks.

Driver Terry Risinger, 32, turned on the emergency flashers and was trying to restart the car when it was struck from behind by a car driven by Afualo Uatisone, Stewart said.

The force of the accident collapsed the rear of the station wagon, pinning the seatbelted boys inside, Stewart said. Rescue workers got them from the car and took them to the hospital, where they originally were listed in critical condition.