

**HB**

**87**

**HB 87 • Highway workers injured/killed on the job**

From DOT: anecdotal reports of accidents in Alaska work zones

**Sept. 1987: Parks Highway and Old Nenana:** Two workmen injured/killed. Stan Mains killed when he was hit by a truck in the work zone; Mel Gertler sustained severe head injuries in the same work zone.

**1988 - Glenn Highway:** Traffic control worker killed in the work zone.

**1989 - Parks Highway:** Worker killed while putting out the "work zone" signs.

**1994 - Badger Road:** Tom Williams, working on the paving crew, sustained major injuries when hit by a car in the work zone.

**1995 -**

**Alaska Highway near Farmers Loop Rd:** Speeding caused a two car crash; one dead.

**Glenn Highway, between milepost 109 and 118:** 11 accidents in the work zone.

**Seward Highway near Portage Glacier:** One worker injured

**Seward Highway near Tudor:** Flagger severely injured.

## HB 87 • Traffic Offenses in Construction Zones

### Sponsor Statement

HB 87 doubles the fines for speeding, and for reckless or negligent driving in a highway construction zone. It is a measure designed to lessen the risk to highway work crews and to reduce the number of accidents in highway work zones.

The temporary work zone is an inherently dangerous place for highway work crews. A comprehensive review of highway accidents in construction zones revealed accidents in work zones tend to peak during the day. Sixty-five percent are caused by drivers' negligence or inattention; speeding accounts for about six percent. In addition, surveys indicate almost two-thirds of work zone fatalities occur in rural areas. These figures indicate a lack of driver attention to the special risks and hazards of construction zones.

Although highway work crews use a variety of methods to call drivers' attention to the hazards of a construction zone, none has proven as effective as law enforcement. An increase in the normal fines for traffic offenses occurring in highway work zones will provide an additional inducement to Alaska drivers to slow down and drive carefully in any temporary work zone. New York, Delaware, Iowa and Virginia have passed similar laws.

## HB 87 • Traffic Offenses in Construction Zones

### Sectional Analysis

**Section 1.** Amends current law relating to the supreme court's authority and the authority of a municipality to establish bail schedules for traffic offenses, to double the amount of bail for a speeding offense, reckless or negligent driving offense committed in a highway work zone.

**Section 2.** Adds a new provision to current law doubling the bail or fine for a speeding offense, reckless or negligent driving offense committed in a highway work zone.

**Section 3.** Defines "highway work zone" as an area where road construction, repair or maintenance work is being done on a highway.

## HB 87 • Traffic Offenses in Construction Zones

### Current and Proposed Penalties

<u>Violation</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<b>Speeding:</b> 3-19 mph over limit	\$4/mile 2-6 pts	\$8/mile 2-6 pts.
<b>Reckless driving:</b>	Misdemeanor 1 yr jail max. \$1000 fine max. 10 pts.	Misdemeanor 1 yr jail max. \$2000 fine max. 10 pts.
<b>Negligent driving:</b>	Infraction No jail \$300 fine max. 6 pts.	Infraction No jail \$600 fine max. 6 pts.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 87

Revision Date <u>2/9/98</u>	Dept. Affected <u>DOT&amp;PF</u>
Title <u>Traffic Offenses in Highway Workzones</u>	BRU <u>Commissioners Office</u>
	Component <u>Office of the Commissioner</u>
Sponsor <u>Representative Elton</u>	
Requester <u>House Judiciary</u>	Component Serial No. <u>530</u>

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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 EXPENDITURES</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
<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>

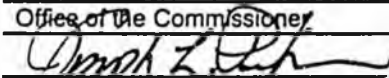
Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost: 0.0

**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)

The department anticipates no additional costs associated with this legislation. The result of passage of HB 87 will be increased safety within construction work zones.

Prepared by <u>Dennis Poshard, Special Assistant</u>	Phone <u>465-3901</u>
Division <u>Office of the Commissioner</u>	Date <u>2/9/98</u>
Approved by <u></u> Commissioner	Date <u>2/9/98</u>
Agency <u>Department of Transportation and Public Facilities</u>	

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# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO: HB 87**

Revision Date: 02/09/98 Dept. Affected: Public Safety  
 Title: An Act relating to fines and bail forfeiture BRU: Alaska State Troopers  
amounts in highway work zones Component: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor: Rep. Elton  
 Requestor: House Judiciary COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0799

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)**

OPERATING	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<b>CAPITAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Revenue Code						

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

Estimate of current year (FY 98) impact: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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.)**

This bill would not have any significant fiscal impact on AST.

Prepared By: F/Sgt. Don Bowman Phone: 269-5084  
 Division: Alaska State Troopers Date: 02/09/98

Approved by Commissioner: Ronald L. Otte Date: 2-9-98  
 Agency: Department of Public Safety

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# inside MoDOT

a monthly newsletter for the employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

## Division Bridges Gap With Districts

*Bridge Division reorganization means better service to the districts, more efficient operations*

**T**he Support Center Bridge Division Aug. 1 began implementing reorganization plans that include reducing levels of supervision, organizing teams that follow projects from design to contract bidding, and creating three new positions to provide better support to the districts.

"The advantage our reorganization offers the department is more timely response, which ultimately results in more efficient operations," said Al Laffoon, Bridge Division engineer.

The biggest change in operations for the Bridge Division is the appointment of three new structural liaison engineers -- Ron Temme, John Schroeder and Bill Stroessner -- who will provide support to the districts. They will meet with district personnel to provide assistance and guidance on bridge-related issues such as planning, design and special design problems.

"In the past, there was a void in service to the districts," Schroeder said. "Better coordination between

district work and the Bridge Division should mean projects can be completed quicker since districts will have better access to the information they need."

The previous organizational structure had four levels of supervisors. With the new system, there are only two levels of supervision. "This means the decision-making responsibilities have

been pushed down to the level where they should be," Laffoon said.

The new position of structural resource manager was created to replace a couple of management levels. Structural Resource Manager Paul Kelly will work with project managers and liaison engineers to manage bridge production needs and to ensure orderly and timely production of plans.

"Project managers will have more flexibility with resources since there won't be as many levels of management to go through to get the resources they need," Kelly said. "This means quicker turnaround time for projects. Basically, we'll be

[see Bridge, page 6](#)

## Maintenance Workers Killed On Duty in Joplin and Hannibal

Two Missouri Department of Transportation seasonal maintenance workers -- 32-year-old Arthur C. Walker Jr. from District 7, and 32-year-old William "Willie" D. Miller from District 3 -- were killed while on duty in July.

Walker was working as a signing crew member when he was hit by a motorist driving a pickup truck July 11 on Route 39 near Aurora in Barry County. Another seasonal maintenance worker, John Lacey, was injured in the accident as well.

Walker's survivors include his wife, parents and two stepsons. This was his first summer working for MoDOT.

Miller, a seasonal worker for the past four summers, died July 30 at a work site on Route E in Lincoln County after being hit by a motorist driving a pickup truck. The truck crossed the work zone cones and struck Miller as he patched concrete on a bridge deck. No one else was injured in the incident.

Miller is a native of New London. His survivors include his mother, stepfather and siblings. ♦

