

SB

164

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Jo. 1
Bill Version: C.S.B. 164 (HE3)
(S) Publish Date: 4-18-97

Revision Date: _____
Title: Authority of EMTs at accident scene

Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services
BRU: State Health Services
Component: Community Health/EMS Grants
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 2079
See also (SN#): _____

Sponsor: Senator Wilken
Requestor: Senate HESS

Expenditures/Revenues:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03
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 EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGES IN REVENUES ()						
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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 (please specify)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: \$0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact.

4/14/97
Prepared by: Peter M. Nakamura, MD, MPH
Division: Public Health
Approved by Commissioner: Karen Perdue, Commissioner
Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Phone: (907) 465-3090
Date: 04/11/97
Date: 4/14/97

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GARY WILKEN

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Interior:
112 N. Cushman St., Room 213
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
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Fax (907) 452-3426

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 164 - Authority of Emergency Medical Technicians

Senate Bill 164 repairs a long overdue shortcoming in our public safety network. Specifically, it provides EMT's with appropriate and relevant authority at the scene of an accident as well as during responses to medical emergencies in homes, without creating potential conflict between emergency personnel. SB 164 is intended to protect EMT's who arrive first on the scene of an accident or medical emergency, or who are the only emergency responders to arrive for some time, as is the case in many rural areas.

Currently, we ask emergency medical technicians to perform actions necessary to their duties such as:

- controlling and directing activities at the scene of an accident;
- temporarily blocking or redirecting traffic to avoid the scene of an accident;
- trespassing upon property in order to respond to an emergency call;
- entering a building, including a private residence, or premises where report of an injury or illness has taken place; and
- directing the removal or destruction of a motor vehicle or other thing in order to prevent further harm to injured or ill individuals;

without giving them the proper legal authority to do so. By taking for granted that EMT's are expected to perform these duties in the absence of any legal authority, we leave hundreds of men and women vulnerable to lack of cooperation on the part of the public and potential liable suits.

Alaska relies heavily on its emergency medical personnel, especially in rural areas where law enforcement and fire personnel are relatively few in numbers. Just as we expect EMT's to protect our safety in an emergency situation, we should reciprocate this service, and give EMT's the proper legal authority to do their jobs without compromising their personal safety.