

HB

350

Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives



Representative Max Gruenberg

Representative Carl Gatto

March 31, 2004

Senator Ralph Seekins, Chair Judiciary

Re: Hearing Request for CSHB 350 (STA) Compensation for Victims of Arson

Dear Senator Seekins,

We would respectfully request the Judiciary committee schedule a hearing for CSHB 350, Compensation for Victims of Arson, at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions or comments please free to contact our offices at extension 3743 Representative Gatto, or 4940 Representative Gruenberg so we may assist you further.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Representative Carl Gatto.

Representative Carl Gatto

Handwritten signature of Representative Max Gruenberg.

Representative Max Gruenberg

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives



Representative Max Gruenberg

Representative Carl Gatto

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSHB 350 (State Affairs)

Compensation for Victims of Arson

Late last summer a home in Anchorage was severely damaged by a fire deliberately set by an unknown perpetrator while the family was asleep. Fortunately the family survived without injury. However many other arson victims have not been so fortunate. Deliberately setting a fire that endangers someone else is first-degree arson, a class A felony. Current Alaska law does not include first-degree arson on the list of crimes for which victims may receive compensation from the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB). CSHB 350 (State Affairs) simply adds arson to the list of crimes for which victims may receive compensation.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB 350
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title An act relating to adding personal inju RDU Violent Crimes Compensation. Board
and property damage from arson. Component Violent Crimes Compensation. Board
 Sponsor Representatives Gatto, Gruenberg
 Requester House State Affairs Committee Component No. 2694

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
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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CHANGE 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 PFD Criminal Fund						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0

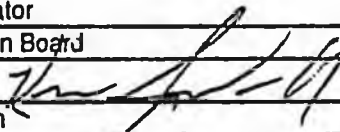
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 350 would add arson as a compensable crime and property damage as a compensable loss under AS 18.67. Only the most serious of arson cases (first degree) would be eligible for consideration by the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. These cases would compete with other eligible applicants for available grant payments.

Prepared by: Susan L. Browne, Administrator
 Division: Violent Crimes Compensation Board
 Approved by: Commissioner Mike Miller 
 Agency: Department of Administration

Phone 465-3040
 Date/Time 1/16/04 4:03 PM
 Date 1/16/2004

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

VIOLENT CRIMES COMPENSATION BOARD

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110230
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0230
PHONE: (907) 465-3040
TOLL FREE: 1-800-764-3040
FAX: (907) 465-2379

January 21, 2004

Representative Bruce Weyhrauch, Chair, House State Affairs
Representative Jim Holm, Vice-Chair, House State Affairs
Representative John Coghill, House State Affairs
Representative Bob Lynn, House State Affairs
Representative Paul Seaton, House State Affairs
Representative Ethan Berkowitz, House State Affairs
Representative Max Gruenberg, House State Affairs - Co-sponsor HB350
Representative Carl Gatto - Co-sponsor HB350
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

RE: HB350
Adding arson to AS 18.67

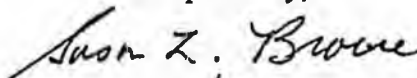
Dear Honorable Chair Weyhrauch, Honorable Vice-Chair Holm, Honorable Members of the House State Affairs Committee, and Honorable Representative Gatto:

The Violent Crimes Compensation Board (Board) appreciates the opportunity to lend its support for HB350. The toll violent crime takes on innocent victims in Alaska is immense. HB350 would add arson as a compensable crime by the Board. Only the most serious arson cases would be eligible for consideration.

While these cases would compete with other eligible applicants for awards out of the Board's limited funds, there is little doubt arson victims suffer extreme losses. I urge you to support this bill and applaud your efforts on behalf of Alaskan crime victims.

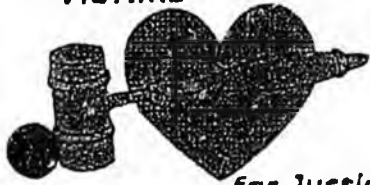
I am available to discuss this with you and will do my best to be available to you while this bill is in your committee. I can be reached at work in Valdez at 907-834-6480 and at home in Valdez at 907-835-2329.

Respectfully,



for
Gerard Godfrey
Chair

VICTIMS



for Justice

1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite • Anchorage, AK 99503

(907) 278-0977 1-888-835-1213 • Fax: (907)258-0740 • e-mail: vfj@alaskalife.net

A United Way Agency

January 20, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding: letter in support of CSHB 350 (State Affairs)

Arson is a serious crime and not at all uncommon in the State of Alaska. Victims of arson can be left with many scars, both physical and mental. The trauma can be devastating as with any serious crime. The financial demands can be overwhelming. Too often these victims are without any support or resources. Victims for Justice would like to offer our support for CSHB 350 (State Affairs). If you have any further question please do not hesitate to give me a call at 907-278-0986.

Donna Garner,
Executive Director
Victims for Justice, Inc.

* RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

Arson injury stats

Subject: Arson injury stats

Date: Wed, 21 Jan 2004 14:41:40 -0900

From: Jodie Hettrick <jodie_hettrick@dps.state.ak.us>

To: kelly_nicolello <kelly_nicolello@dps.state.ak.us>

Kelly,

We found the following stats -

2001 - 4 injuries - 2 incidents

2002 - 7 injuries - 3 incidents

2003 - 7 injuries - 1 incident (2003 stats are incomplete so far)

Jodie

Community	Full Name	Sex	Race	D.O.B	Age	Date of Fire	Date of Death	Loss Cause	Multi-Victim	Fire Cause	Smoke Detector Installed	Drugs or Alcohol	Occupancy
Upper Kalmi	Kameroff, M	M	Native American		24	4/19/1975	4/19/1975	Asphyxiation	No	Arson	Not Installed	No	Residential, home
Anchorage	Whitehorn, M	M	Caucasian		23	2/5/1976	2/5/1976	Hemorrhage	No	Arson	Not Installed	No	Structural, Business
Anchorage	Hiratuska, F	F	Other		8	12/7/1978	12/7/1978	Carbon Monoxide	No	Arson	Not Installed	No	Residential, home
Anchorage	Smith, Myl F	F	Other		20	1/25/1981	1/25/1981	Asphyxiation	No	Arson	Not Installed	Yes	Structural, Business
Northway	Ervin, Leo M	M	Native Am	11/5/1959	22	4/10/1984	4/10/1984	Burns	No	Arson	Undetermined	Unknown	Residential, home
Nome	Pootogog, F	F	Native Am	1/12/1963	21	9/22/1984	9/22/1984	Asphyxiation	Yes	Arson	Not Installed	Yes	Residential, home
Nome	Olanna, D M	M	Native Am	8/24/1974	10	9/22/1984	9/22/1984	Asphyxiation	Yes	Arson	Not Installed	Yes	Residential, home
Fairbanks	Silas, Sus F	F	Native Am	7/15/1955	29	9/23/1984	10/12/1984	Burns	No	Arson	Not Installed	No	Residential, home
Fairbanks	Hansen, A M	M	Caucasian	9/23/1925	59	2/4/1985	2/5/1985	Burns	No	Arson	Not Installed	Yes	Residential, home
Akiak	Jackson, M	M	Native Am	6/28/1970	17	6/28/1987	6/28/1987	Burns	No	Arson	Undetermined	Yes	Other
Anchorage	Smith, Jeff M	M	Caucasian	5/4/1953	37	1/11/1991	1/11/1991	Asphyxiation	Yes	Arson	Undetermined	Yes	Residential, trailer
Anchorage	Dohman, F	F	Caucasian	5/9/1956	34	1/11/1991	1/11/1991	Asphyxiation	Yes	Arson	Undetermined	Yes	Residential, trailer
Knik Area	DeBeaulieu, M	M	Native American		6	4/11/1996	4/11/1996	Asphyxiation	No	Arson	Not Installed	No	Residential, trailer
Anchorage	Alex, Aled M	M	Native Am	4/9/1941	55	4/24/1996	4/24/1996	Asphyxiation &	No	Arson	Not Installed	Yes	Residential, home
Bear Creek	Ferguson, M	M	Caucasian	9/19/1952	46	11/16/1998	11/16/1998	Asphyxiation	No	Arson	Not Installed	Undetermined	Residential, home
Anchorage	Dubose, J M	M	Black	3/22/1953	45	12/3/1998	12/3/1998	Burns	No	Arson	Did not operate	Yes	Multi-dwelling structure
Anchorage	Robinson, F	F	Black	1/14/1968	29	12/3/1998	12/7/1998	Burns	No	Arson	Did not operate	Yes	Multi-dwelling structure
Delta Junction	Roll, Walter M	M	Caucasian	1/7/1920	79	3/21/1999	3/21/1999	Asphyxiation	No	Arson/Homicide	Undetermined	Yes	Residential, home
Soldotna	Richel, Dc F	F	Caucasian	1/1/1948	51	9/10/1999	9/10/1999	Asphyxiation &	No	Arson	Undetermined	Undetermined	Residential, home
Kenai	Adams, D M	M	Caucasian	10/11/1957	41	9/17/1999	9/17/1999	Burns	No	Arson/Suicide	Operated	Yes	Residential, home
Klawock	Williams, M	M		2/1/1997	3	6/10/2000	6/10/2000	Burns	No	Arson - Juvenile	Not Installed	Undetermined	Residential, trailer
Wasilla	Welton, S M	M	Caucasian	11/12/1985	15	9/15/2000	9/15/2000	Asphyxiation	No	Arson	Did not operate	No	Multi-dwelling structure
North Pole	Rainer, Vil F	F	Caucasian	7/16/1944	57	10/23/2000	10/23/2000	Asphyxiation	No	Arson	Did not operate	Undetermined	Residential, home

Deaths resulting from arson
(in Alaska)
From state Fire Marshall's office