

HB

350

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/5/04

FURTHER: Judiciary

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 3/26/04

State Affairs Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 350(STA)

HB 350 CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION FOR ARSON

"An Act adding personal injury and death from arson in the first degree to the injuries compensable by the Violent Crimes Compensation Board; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to _____ Committee

Senate Bill:
 Same Title
 New Title

House Bill:
 Same Title
 Technical Title Change
 New Title w/ SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	Indet.	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	Indet.	FN#
XDA	1/14/04		✓		1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>John J. Casady</i>	✓			
<i>Robert J. ...</i>	✓			
<i>...</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	X			

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSHB 350(STA)
(H) Publish Date: 1/28/04

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 Phone 465-3040
Division Violent Crimes Compensation Board Date/Time 1/16/04 4:03 PM
Approved by: Commissioner Mike Miller Date 1/16/2004
Agency Department of Administration

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives



Official Business

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Representative Carl Gatto

Representative Max Gruenberg

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.

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
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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

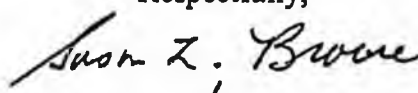
Dear Honorable Chair Weyhrauch, Honorable Vice-Chair Holm, Honorable Members of the House State Affairs Committee, and Honorable Representative Gatto:

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: vj@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

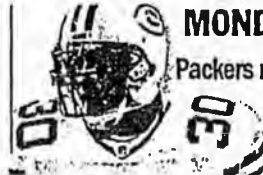
THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES



JAY HAMMOND
Endowment plan must meet certain conditions
OP-ED



SPECIAL KIDS
Screening program catches disease early
LIFE



MONDAY NIGHT
Packers run past Bears, spoil new den
SPORTS

WEATHER
September drips on
High 58; low 48

50 cents

Final Edit

Anchorage Daily News

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

ALASKA'S NEWSPAPER

www.adn.co

ARSONS HIT NORTHEAST ANCHORAGE



PHOTOS BY STELLA BOWEN / ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

Milos Vallejo, 15, a freshman at East High, salvaged smoke-damaged family photographs from his home Monday. Vallejo was awake when someone set fire to the house. He woke the other occupants in the house, and everyone escaped serious injury.

Home damaged, but no one hurt

Several fire stations also respond to string of vehicle blazes

By TATABLINE BRANT
Anchorage Daily News

A house and at least four vehicles were set ablaze in a string of arsons Monday in northeast Anchorage.

The fires occurred between 6:15 and 7:15 a.m. in the Mountain View and Russian Jack neighborhoods. Firefighters came from as far away as 80th Avenue, Tudor Road and Spenard to fight the back-to-back blazes.

A 15-year-old boy cut his thumb while trying to extinguish a fire that had been set at his house while his family slept, but other than that, there were no injuries. The boy roused his family and everyone got out safely, but they lost a cat named Precious and their house was badly damaged.

Hattie Nichols, 71, said her great-grandson, Milos Vallejo, is a hero.

"Had it not been for him, we all would have died in the fire," she said.

In all, fires at about half a dozen locations were called in Monday morning, and there were other reports of two attempted arsons and an accidental carpet fire, Anchorage Police Department spokesman Ron McGee said.

Police and fire officials were still trying to piece together the details Monday night. They did not yet know how many of the fires were related or what the motive for setting them might have been. Total damages are estimated to be \$265,000, Anchorage Fire Department spokesman Tom Kempton said.

McGee and Kempton said a witness saw a woman in the vicinity of one fire who was said to be holding a cylindrical object that might have been a torch. Police want to talk to the woman, who had dark hair, was about 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighed about 120 pounds. Anyone



Tricia Estores, in white, embraces her grandmother Hattie Nichols outside the home in the Russian Jack neighborhood where they escaped an early-morning fire Monday. Two other people also escaped.

See Back Page. FIRES

Anchorage Daily News

(1988-Current)

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Anchorage Daily News (AK)

June 7, 2001

Man attacks neighborhood, sets house ablaze Neighbor holds suspect at gunpoint until troopers arrive

Author: S.J. Komarnitsky
Anchorage Daily News
Staff

Edition: Final
Section: Nation
Page: A1

Estimated printed pages: 3

Article Text:

A man wearing a single shoe and shouting about his plans to kill cats terrorized a Wasilla area neighborhood Wednesday, throwing rocks at houses, tipping over garbage cans and setting a home on fire.

The spree ended only after a neighbor pointed a rifle at the man.

Even so, it took two officers to get Gordon E. Samel, 39, of Wasilla into custody, Alaska State Troopers said. They hit him with a Tazer, a device that shoots a nonlethal jolt of electricity, and had to wrestle him to the ground, said Sgt. Robert Cox.

Samel, who has been arrested several times over the past 20 years, was being held Wednesday at Mat-Su Pre-Trial Facility in Palmer. He was first taken to Valley Hospital in part because he told officers he had taken drugs, Cox said. He likely will face charges of arson and resisting arrest, Cox said.

Fire officials estimated damage to a two story A-frame on Caribou Loop near the intersection of Seldon and Wasilla-Fishhook roads at about \$60,000.

Shirley Durling, who lives at the home with her two young sons, said Wednesday evening she was still in shock. The deck and front of her home were scorched black, and her roof was pocked with holes where firefighters had punched through to get to the flames.

"It's been a really good neighborhood," Durling said. "I've never worried about my kids going out to play, or anything. It's just really weird."

The problems for the neighborhood -- a wooded residential area about three miles north of Wasilla -- started about 3 p.m. when Samel popped out of the trees, residents said.

He was wearing a T-shirt, sweats and a single sandal, said Clarence Copeland, 55, an ex-Marine and truck driver who was raking his yard at the time.

"He was mumbling to himself and he said that he was going to kill my cats," Copeland said. "I told him, 'I don't have any cats.'"

He then started walking down the road, but not before tipping Copeland's trash cans over.

He then went next door to Durling's home and started throwing rocks at it. Copeland told his wife,

Anchorage Daily News

(1986-Current)

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Record 1 of -1

[E-Mail](#)[Text Only Display](#)[List](#)**Anchorage Daily News (AK)**

November 17, 1999

ARSON SUSPECTED IN WASILLA BLAZE

Author: Karen Aho
Daily News Reporter
Staff

Edition: Final
Section: Metro
Page: B2

Estimated printed pages: 2

Article Text:

Alaska State Troopers are investigating an arson that gutted a teacher's house in Wasilla early Tuesday.

William Sterns, 49, woke about 3:45 a.m. to a thud on the porch, firefighters said. He found the lower level of his Willow Road home illuminated by flames through the front windows.

"I did what anybody would do at that time, grabbed a few essentials and bolted," Sterns said.

He dialed 911 on his portable phone as he ran out the back door and around the front of his house to move the truck, which was about 10 feet from the flames.

Troopers arrived minutes later and put out much of the fire with portable extinguishers, but the flames spread through the wall and up into the eaves of the two-story frame house, Central Mat-Su Fire Department Battalion Chief Michael Keenan said.

Troopers called the fire an arson but would not say what was used to start it, pending an investigation.

Sterns, who has taught government and politics at Wasilla High School for 15 years, said he has no reason to believe he was the target of a personal attack.

"There hasn't been any agitated interaction, adverse relations with kids," he said. "There's nothing like that."

Damage was estimated at \$50,000.

"It could be a mistaken location," trooper Sgt. Dennis Ponder said. "Obviously someone intended someone harm."

Reporter Karen Aho can be reached at kaho@adn.com.

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Record Number: 55302

Article Bookmark(OpenURL Compliant): [Anchorage Daily News \(AK\) : ARSON SUSPECTED IN WASILLA BLAZE](#)
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