

SCR

4

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 2/19/03

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 3/27/03
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 3/7/03

State Affairs Committee considered SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

SCR 4 AVALANCHE AWARENESS MONTH

Relating to Avalanche Awareness Month.

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS SCR 4 (S. STA)
- 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
- new: SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
S. STA	3/7/03		✓	1

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

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

23-LS0565VD
Kurtz
3/6/03

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS GREEN, Wilken, Ogan, Cowdery, Guess, Ben Stevens, Taylor, Bunde, French, Dyson, Lincoln, Wagoner, Seekins, Elton, Olson, Therriault

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to Avalanche Awareness Month.

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

3 WHEREAS Alaskans live, work, and play in and on the edge of the wilderness; and
4 WHEREAS Alaskans spend twice as much time enjoying the abundance and variety
5 of Alaska's winter recreational opportunities as most other Americans spend in winter
6 recreational activities; and

7 WHEREAS many of the state's popular winter recreation areas are subject to
8 avalanche danger; and

9 WHEREAS many Alaskans are not properly educated or equipped to recognize and
10 respond to avalanches; and

11 WHEREAS Alaska has the highest avalanche death rate per capita in the nation; over
12 70 Alaskans have died in Alaska avalanches since 1968, and 28 have perished since 1999; and

13 WHEREAS education on the recognition of avalanche risks, response to avalanches,
14 and the use of appropriate equipment could reduce avalanche-related tragedies that create
15 undue hardships and great personal loss for families and communities;

16 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of

1 November 2003 as Avalanche Awareness Month; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges schools, community
3 groups, and other public and private agencies and individuals to observe Avalanche
4 Awareness Month with appropriate activities that increase the public's awareness of avalanche
5 dangers, how to respond to avalanches, and the use of appropriate equipment in avalanche
6 areas.

7 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Frank Murkowski,
8 Governor; to Aedene Arthur, Backcountry Avalanche Awareness and Response Team; to
9 Doug Fesler and Jill Fredston, co-directors, The Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc.; to Bill
10 Glude, Southeast Alaska Avalanche Center; to the Honorable William Tandeske,
11 Commissioner, Department of Public Safety; to the director, Division of Alaska State
12 Troopers, Alaska Department of Public Safety; to the mayors, chiefs of police, and fire chiefs
13 of the Municipality of Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Denali Borough, Haines
14 Borough, City and Borough of Juneau, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Matanuska-Susitna
15 Borough, City and Borough of Sitka, City of Cordova, City of Fairbanks, City of Palmer, City
16 of Petersburg, City of Seward, City of Skagway, City of Valdez, and City of Wasilla; to the
17 operators of the ski areas at Eaglecrest, Alyeska, Alpenglöw, Hilltop, Moose Mountain, Ski
18 Land, Birch Hill, and Cordova Ski Hill; and to legislative communication offices for
19 statewide distribution.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Interim:
600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-3370
(907) 376-3157 Fax

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-6600
(907) 465-3805 Fax

SENATOR LYDA GREEN
SENATE DISTRICT G

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SCR4

A Resolution relating to Avalanche Awareness Month

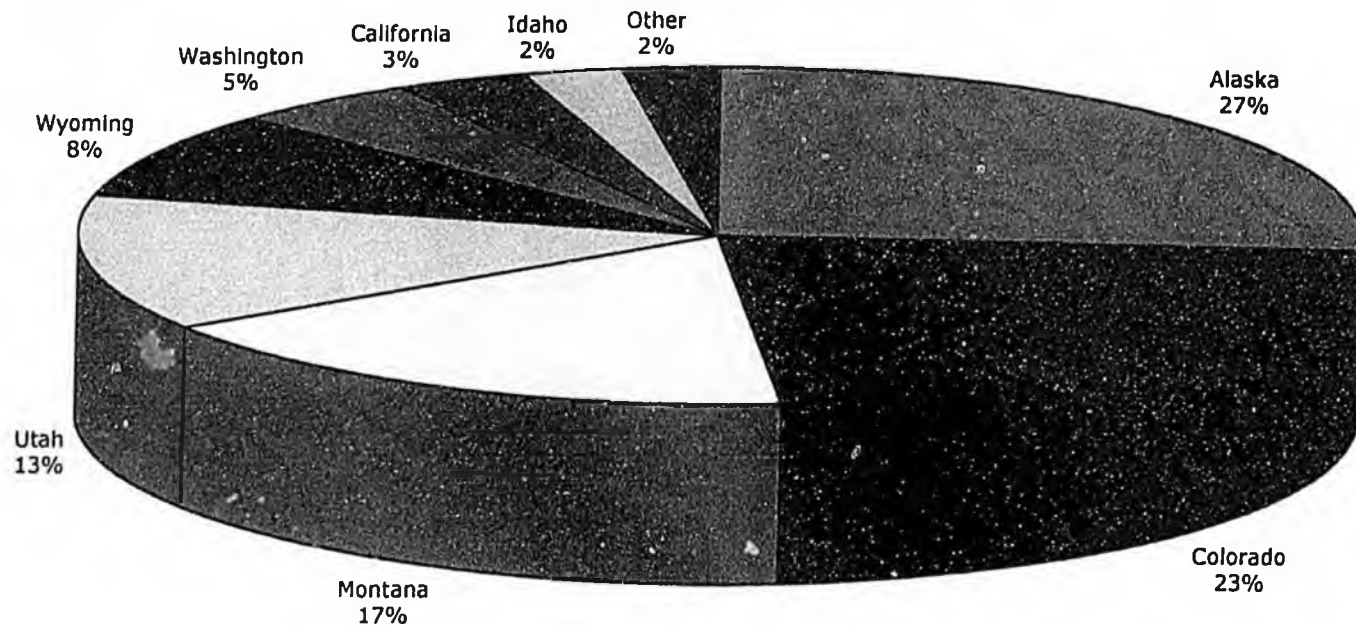
Alaska is avalanche country. Each year Alaska loses more people to avalanches than any other state, regardless of population. During the last four winters alone, 31 Alaskans have died in avalanches. This winter, school buses on Thane road in Juneau were hit two times by avalanche dust clouds. It is chilling to think of the possible outcomes. While often little can be done to prevent the occurrence of an avalanche, much can be done to prevent the loss of life from avalanches.

Senate concurrent Resolution 4 would proclaim November 2003 as Avalanche Awareness Month. This proclamation would raise public awareness of the hazards associated with avalanches, and the opportunities to participate in avalanche safety training at the beginning of the winter recreational season. It is hoped that public participation in avalanche safety programs will be increased and that this increased participation will result in saved lives during the winter.

US Avalanche Fatalities by State, 1998-2002

N=121

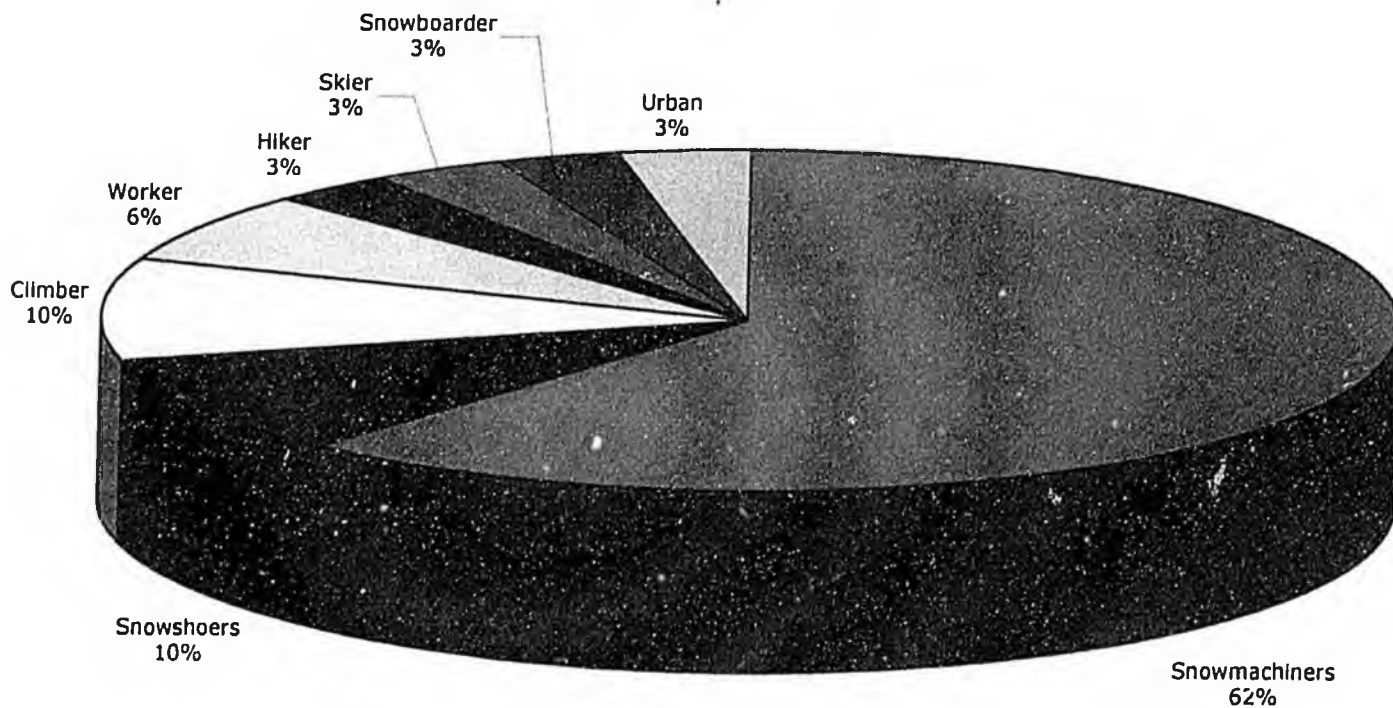
Compiled by Southeast Alaska Avalanche Center, 06-24-02



Alaska Avalanche Fatalities by Activity 98-02

N=31

Compiled by Southeast Alaska Avalanche Center, 06-24-02



FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SCR 4
 (S) Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title AVALANCHE AWARENESS MONTH BRU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Senator Green Component No. _____
 Requester Senate State Affairs Committee

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
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						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
 Division: _____
 Approved by: Senator Gary Stevens, Chair
 Agency: _____

Phone 465-4522
 Date/Time 3/4/03 2:03 PM
 Date 3/4/2003