

SB

63

Alaska State Legislature
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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11:30m


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Session:
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SENATOR BEN STEVENS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Carl Gatto, Co-chair
Representative Jim Elkins, Co-chair
House Transportation Committee

FROM: Senator Ben Stevens 

DATE: March 22, 2005

RE: Scheduling of Senate Bill 63 for Hearing

I respectfully request the scheduling of Senate Bill 63 – “An Act relating to road signs encouraging the use of safety belts.”– for a hearing at your earliest possible convenience. Thank you.

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SENATOR BEN STEVENS

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SENATE BILL 63

"An Act relating to road signs encouraging the use of safety belts."

The Nathan Kampen Act

Senate Bill 63 would encourage the posting of signs promoting the use of safety belts. The legislation specifically allows the Department of Transportation to erect and maintain signs at the site of a motor vehicle accident where a fatality occurred as a result of a person's failing to use a safety belt.

Title 17 currently only allows Highway Fatality Memorial Signs that do not include a safety belt sign. An average of 55% of the fatalities in motor vehicle accidents in Alaska from 1997-2002 could have been prevented if seatbelts had been used. It is our hope that these postings will reduce the number of fatalities from failure to use a seat belt.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SB63-DOT-CO-1-3-05
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: DOT&PF
 Title Road Signs Encouraging Seat Belt Usage RDU Administration & Support
 Component Commissioner's Office
 Sponsor Sen. Ben Stevens
 Requester Senate Transportation Component No. 530

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	*	*	*	*	*	*

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 (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	*	*	*	*	*	*

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

It is not known how many signs would be posted and maintained by DOT&PF, however, the average cost of such a sign is \$500.

Prepared by: Nona Wilson Phone 465-3904
 Division: Legislative Liaison, DOT&PF Date/Time 2/4/05 12:08 PM
 Approved by: Mike Barton Date 2/4/2005
 Agency: Commissioner, DOT&PF

Alaska Traffic Accidents					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Total Accidents	13,804	13,499	14,691	14,127	15,273
Fatalities	54	53	55	79	69
No Seatbelt	31	28	29	45	39
% that could have survived	57%	53%	53%	57%	57%

CHAPTER 2S. SPECIAL SIGNS

This is a new chapter. There is no corresponding chapter in the MUTCD.

Section 2S.01 Highway Fatality Memorial Signs (I-160 through I-163)

Support:

Highway Fatality Memorial Signs memorialize people who die in highway accidents.

Standard:

The **PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE (I-160)** sign is used when a legally drunk driver caused the fatal accident. This sign shall be used in conjunction with one of the following:

- An **IN MEMORY OF . . . (I-162)** plaque, when the deceased was a victim of an alleged drunk driver, OR
- A **SPONSORED BY . . . (I-163)** plaque, when the deceased was the alleged drunk driver

The **PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY (I-161)** sign is used when a legally drunk driver did not cause the fatal accident. It shall be used in conjunction with one of the following:

- An **IN MEMORY OF . . . (I-162)** plaque, when the deceased was a victim of another driver who was allegedly at fault, or when the deceased was the only person killed or injured in a single car accident, OR
- A **SPONSORED BY . . . (I-163)** plaque, when the deceased was the driver who was allegedly at fault in an accident where others were killed or injured.

If both **IN MEMORY OF . . . (I-162)** and **SPONSORED BY . . . (I-163)** plaques are required at an accident site, they shall be installed on separate sign installations.

Month and year of installation shall be clearly marked on the back of each sign and plaque with long-lasting black paint.

Before installation on state highways, the DOT&PF regional office right-of-way chief or designee must approve the use of these signs in keeping with the Highway Fatality Memorial Sign Program. Applicants for the signs must comply with program requirements.

Cheryl Sutton

From: Jeff Turner
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2005 8:42 AM
To: Phelan Straube; Shannon Straube; Cheryl Sutton
Subject: Letter to the Editor in 2/17/05 edition of the ADN

Why do legislators oppose signs reminding us to wear seat belts?

It seems there may be some confusion over Ben Stevens' Senate Bill 63. This is legislation allowing the erection of a roadside memorial sign encouraging the use of seat belts. In the Daily News article "Buckling up high on legislators to-do list" Feb. 9, it states there are six House members who are opposed to this legislation. A roadside memorial sign program is already available to the public; you know the little blue signs that say "Please Don't Drink and Drive" or "Please Drive Safely" and under the sign it lists the name or names of people who have lost their lives. Why would they oppose something that really isn't going to cost anything and will draw attention to the terrible loss of life due to lack of wearing seat belts?

I lost my youngest son, Nathan Kampen, in a car accident. He was not wearing his seat belt. When I requested a memorial sign saying "Please Buckle Up" or something similar, I was told it was not available. So I presented my problem to Ben Stevens, and he was kind enough to help. I truly see no reason to oppose this legislation. I could always put up one of the other signs available, but my hope is to remind our young people to "Buckle Up."

---- Carol Kampen