

HB

207

<target><bill>HB 207</bill><subject>HB
207</subject><comm>HFIN26</comm></target>

Alaska State Legislature

Interim: (June - Dec.)
716 West 4TH Avenue, Suite 600
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2133
(907) 269-0129
Fax (907) 269-0128



Session: (Jan. - May)
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN HARRIS

Sponsor Statement HB 207

An Act increasing the allowances for injury, disability, or heart attack payable from the fisherman's fund

The Alaska Fisherman's Fund was established 1951 to provide for the treatment and care of Alaska licensed commercial fishermen and crew who have been injured while fishing on shore or off shore in Alaska. The upper limit on claims in the fund has been \$2,500 since 1959. If \$2,500 in 1959 dollars was adjusted for the Consumer Price Index, it would be worth approximately \$18,229.64 today. While the limitation in state law has remained unchanged, health care costs have steadily risen.

Access to health insurance and health care is a concern among fishermen and especially presents an obstacle to younger fishermen who are seeking to continue as the next generation in Alaska's sustainable fisheries.

HB 207 updates the Alaska Fishermen's Fund limit to \$10,000. This is intended to help ensure that Alaska's fishermen have better access to health care when injured while fishing. Updating the claim limit to \$10,000 will bring this very worthwhile program back to providing a meaningful level of assistance as the payer of last resort for commercial fishermen and crew that sustain injuries or illness while fishing.

The fund is financed from revenue received from each resident and nonresident commercial fisherman's license and permit fee. Commercial fishermen and crew members pay 39% -- or up to \$50 each -- of their annual license fees into this account. In 2008, there were 13,706 commercial fishing permit holders who contributed to the fund.

The account has grown to \$11.5 million even as health care costs have risen, due in part to continuing improvements in fish industry safety.

This increase is not projected to jeopardize the sustainability of the fund.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 207
(H) Publish Date: 4/10/09

Identifier (file name): HB207-DFG-CFEC-04-06-09 Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
Title: An act increasing the allowances for injury, disability, or heart RDU: Comm Fisheries Entry Commission
Sponsor: Representative(s) Harris, Austerman, Wilson Component: Comm Fisheries Entry Commission
Requester: House Fisheries Committee Component Number: 471

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Interagency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temporary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

There are no significant fiscal impacts for CFEC associated with this bill.

Prepared by: Shirley Penrose, Administrative Officer
Division: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
Approved by: Frank M. Homan, Chairman
Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

Phone 907-790-6960
Date/Time 4/6/09 1:25 PM
Date 4/6/2009

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
Bill Version: HB 207
(H) Publish Date: 4/10/09

Identifier (file name): HB207-DOLWD-FF-04-02-09 Dept. Affected: Labor and Workforce Development
Title: Maximum Benefit From Fishermen's Fund RDU: Workers' Compensation
Sponsor: Representative Harris Component: Fishermen's Fund
Requester: House FSH Component Number: 343

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims		63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7

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								
1032 Fishermen's Fund		63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7
TOTAL	0.0	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7	63.7

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: None

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation increases the total allowance for a claim that can be approved by the Fishermen's Fund Administrator before it must go before the Fishermen's Fund Council from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Currently there are claims that exceed the current approval level, that are approved for payment and paid up to the \$2,500 limit, but the claimant does not take the next step to go to the council for payment of the remainder of those claims. With the higher approval level some of those claims would be paid to a higher level and thus increase our expenditures. Based on past claims history the department estimates that expenditures could increase by approximately \$63,700. The program has sufficient budgeted expenditure authorization to absorb this cost increase.

Prepared by: Trena Heikes, Director
Division: Workers' Compensation
Approved by: Click Bishop, Commissioner
Agency: Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Phone 465-6059
Date/Time 4/2/09 3:19 PM
Date 4/2/09