

HB

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David Scott

From: Jeremiah Campbell
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 1:20 PM
Subject: AK House Majority Caucus Press Release: House OK's Bill Helping Local Emergency Agencies
Attachments: 20120403_Feige_HB219.pdf

Press Release

HOUSE OK'S BILL HELPING LOCAL EMERGENCY AGENCIES
HB 219 would allow for upfront funding to help offset operating costs

Wednesday, April 4, 2012, Juneau, Alaska - The Alaska House today unanimously passed legislation by Representative Eric Feige to help communities better provide fire and emergency services to residents.

House Bill 219 allows local fire and emergency medical services to collect payments up-front, or annually, from community members as a form of prepayment for services. The payments would allow the organization providing the service to raise needed operating funds to better protect the community.

"Often the largest costs these organizations have are daily costs such as keeping the heat on and paying property and liability insurance," Feige, R-Chickaloon, said. "They have to pay these costs even when they aren't running calls that generate revenue."

Under current statute, it is the opinion of the Alaska Division of Insurance that this type of activity is deemed insurance and is regulated by that division. "HB 219 will clarify that community based fire and ambulance services accepting a donation and then providing service at no charge is not insurance and is not regulated by the division," Feige said. "This bill will help Alaskans receive better emergency services in their communities, making them more viable and sustainable."

The bill now moves to the Alaska Senate for consideration.

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For more information contact Rep. Feige's office 465-5446

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