HB

56

<TARGET><BILL>HB 56</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
56</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA29</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/4/15

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 4/1/2015

State Affairs Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 56

HB 56 ALASKA FIREFIGHTERS' DAY

"An Act establishing Alaska Firefighters' Day."

and recommends:

[✓] be **replaced** with **SCS** HB 56 (STA) [✓] *Same Title* [ ] *Technical Title Change* [ ] *New Title/SCR No.*_____

[ ] adopt **previous SCS** _____ (_____) [ ] *Same Title* [ ] *Technical Title Change* [ ] *New Title/SCR No.*_____

[ ] attached amendment(s)

[ ] adopt _____Letter of Intent

[ ] further referral to _____Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
AJS	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
ADM			✓	1
LEG			✓	2

[ ] **APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note**

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
John Coghill	Coghill	✓			
	Huggins	✓			
Lesil McGuire	McGuire	✓			
CHAIR: Bill Stoltze	Stoltze	✓			

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Bill Stoltze, Chair
State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4958
Fax (907) 465- 4928

Official Business

Members:
Sen. John Coghill, Vice Chair
Sen. Charlie Huggins
Sen. Lesil McGuire
Sen. Bill Wielechowski

March 31, 2015
Bill Packet Information

HB 56 ALASKA FIREFIGHTERS' DAY

- Sponsor Statement
- HB 56 version A – ***Initial Version***
- Supporting Documents:
  - Legislative Research Report 15.061 – Alaska Firefighting History
  - Letters of Support (**4**)
    - Letter AK Professional Firefighters Association
    - Letter Alaska Fire Chiefs Association 2-9-15
    - Letter Mark Hall of Hillcorp 2-20-15
    - Letter National Volunteer Fire Council 2-21-15
- Fiscal Notes:
  - #1 - DOA-FAC 2-20-15 (**Zero**)
  - #2 – LEG-SESS 2-20-15 (**Zero**)

SB 24 LEGIS. ETHICS ACT: CONTRACTORS, INTERNS

<Previously Heard/Scheduled on 3/5/15 & 3/12/15>

<Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled>

Testifier List

Senate State Affairs
3/31/2015

HB 56-ALASKA FIREFIGHTERS' DAY

Presenting:

Rep. Bob Lynn & Esther Mielke (staff)

Arranged Testifiers:

Kelly Nicolello
State Fire Marshal / Director
Alaska Dept. of Public Safety
Division of Fire and Life Safety
(907) 269-5491/5484

Jeff Tucker, Fire Chief
Kenai Fire Department
105 S. Willow Street
Kenai, Alaska 99611
907-283-7666 (Office)
907-388-1702 (Cell)

Mark Hall
Fire Chief | Hilcorp Alaska, LLC
O: 907-777-8359
C: 907-223-6888
3800 Centerpoint Dr., Ste 1400
Anchorage, AK 99503

Public Testimony is noticed as **Open**

SB 24-LEGIS. ETHICS ACT: CONTRACTORS,INTERNS

Invited Testimony:

Public Testimony was taken on 3/12/2015, and remains open. It is noticed as **Open**

29-LS0241\W
Shutts
3/27/15

SENATE CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 56(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES LYNN AND CLAMAN, Tuck, Kawasaki, Gara, Millett, Keller, Stutes, Johnson, Josephson, LeDoux, Tarr

SENATORS Stoltze, Bishop, Egan

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act establishing Alaska Firefighters' Day."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds that it is an appropriate observance of Alaska Firefighters' Day to recognize and honor posthumously the 27 fallen Alaska firefighters, both career and volunteer, who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, as well as all other emergency medical and rescue personnel who have made that profound sacrifice.

(b) In establishing Alaska Firefighters' Day, it is the intent of the legislature to recognize

(1) all of the heroic and dedicated firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, search and rescue personnel, and countless others beyond the field of active law enforcement who place themselves in harm's way to serve the state and its people;

(2) the service of the approximate 1,500 career municipal, wildland, and

airport firefighters in the state; and

(3) the service of the approximate 6,000 volunteer municipal, village, and wildland firefighters in the state.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to article 2 to read:

Sec. 44.12.140. Alaska Firefighters' Day. Alaska Firefighters' Day is established on the Sunday preceding October 9 each year to honor firefighters in the state. If October 9 falls on a Sunday, then Alaska Firefighters' Day is on October 9. Alaska Firefighters' Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Alaska State Legislature

Chairman
State Affairs Committee

Member
Judiciary Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee
Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

Finance Subcommittees
Administration
Corrections
Military and Veterans Affairs
Judiciary

A Communication From
REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN
District 26 Anchorage

E-Mail: Rep.Bob.Lynn@akleg.gov

Session:
Alaska State Capitol #108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-4931
Fax: (907) 465-4316
Toll Free: (800) 870-4391

Interim:
716 W. 4th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Phone: (907) 269-0205
Fax: (907) 269-0207

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 56

"An Act establishing Alaska Firefighters' Day"

The Sunday preceding October 9th annually marks the beginning of National Fire Prevention Week. We believe that it is fitting to designate this day as Alaska Firefighters' Day to honor the men and women whose dedication, commitment, and sacrifice protect us and our great state every day. It seems only appropriate that we set aside a day to recognize and thank our firefighters for the sacrifices they make in order to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible for all Alaskans.

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICES

Alaska State Legislature
Division of Legal and Research Services
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 465-3991 phone
(907) 465-3908 fax
research@akleg.gov

Research Brief

TO: Representative Bob Lynn
FROM: Katie Spielberger, Legislative Analyst
DATE: October 16, 2014
RE: Firefighting in Alaska
LRS Report 15.061

You asked for a brief history of firefighting in Alaska, including any dates that would be appropriate to use as a day of honor. You also asked for information about the current responsibilities and duties of professional and volunteer firefighters in the state.

Alaska is home to thousands of volunteer and professional firefighters serving in communities across the state, each with its own extensive history. Generally, fire departments formed and expanded in response to the needs of a growing population in the territory and state of Alaska. We describe below some of the early histories of individual fire departments, as well as territorial and state oversight, noting that a comprehensive history of firefighting in Alaska is far beyond the scope of this report. Today, Alaska firefighters are trained to respond to a variety of emergencies in addition to fires, notably emergency medical service (EMS) and rescue calls, as detailed below. Finally, we discuss some of the ways in which communities in Alaska and beyond honor their volunteer and professional firefighters. On a national level, as well as in some other states, firefighters are honored in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week in October. Firefighters are also typically honored on September 11 in commemorations across the country, including in Alaska.

Firefighting in the Territory of Alaska: Early Departments

Fire departments were some of the first organizations established in new communities in the territory of Alaska, and the history of many city fire departments date to the time of city incorporation. Early fire departments were often simple volunteer efforts with little equipment beyond buckets and warning bells. The earliest histories we found of individual departments are from some of the first cities to be incorporated in Alaska, including Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, and Skagway.

A volunteer fire department was organized in Skagway in 1898, as the town boomed amid the Klondike Gold Rush, and was put to the test in 1899, when fire destroyed several downtown buildings and a forest fire destroyed an army post near Dyea.[1]

The Douglas Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1898, and the Juneau Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1899. Capital City Fire and Rescue provides on their website a lively account of fire department activities on Gastineau Channel since 1887, reproduced from a document by an unknown author found in a fire hall.[2] The document describe the first known significant fires in Juneau, one at the Opera House Building in 1887, which was put out by Chilkat blankets, and one in 1898 that destroyed the courthouse and jail, resulting in the release of prisoners.

A few weeks before Ketchikan was incorporated in 1900, volunteers organized a bucket brigade, which was as simple as it sounds: members only needed to own a bucket and be able to carry it full of water to a fire. By 1903, the city recognized the need for more adequate fire protection and built and equipped a fire house, which was dedicated in 1904.[3]

---

[1] History compiled and edited by Jeff Brady, *Skagway News*, and accessed on Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau website at *http://skagway.com/skagway-history/* .

[2] Capital City Fire and Rescue, *www.ccfr.net/docs/History_Prior_to_1947.pdf*

[3] "Ketchikan's Volunteer Legacy: Buckets to hydrants to hi-tech," by June Allen, *sitnews.net*, January 15, 2004, *www.sitnews.net/JuneAllen/KFD/011504_ktn_fire_dept.html*.

In 1906, a large fire destroyed more than 70 buildings in the heart of the Fairbanks commercial district. This fire prompted several changes in fire protection, including higher wages for firefighters and more fire hydrants.[4] In 1923, when the University of Alaska Fairbanks opened, the campus established its own fire department, first as a bucket brigade, then using military surplus fire equipment. In the 1950s, the campus fire department began to protect the area surrounding the campus as well.[5]

Other early fire departments include the Seward Volunteer Fire Department, which was incorporated in 1906, and the Anchorage Fire Department, which was formed in 1915.[6, 7] Anchorage added a second fire department the next year to protect railroad properties.[8]

One of the most disastrous fires in the territory was a 1934 fire that destroyed most of the city of Nome, including the entire business district and parts of surrounding residential districts.[9]

Fire Departments After Statehood

Following Statehood, fire departments expanded along with Alaska's population, closely following the incorporation of new cities and the needs of communities. Many volunteer departments gradually became more professionalized, acquired larger resources and staff, and often developed emergency medical services (EMS).

In the early years of Statehood, some new departments were as simple as the bucket brigades used at the turn of the century. For example, the Ester Volunteer Fire Department began in the mid-1960s as a "neighborhood fire extinguisher brigade" that relied on a "telephone tree" when a fire broke out. In 1977, the department incorporated and acquired a surplus fire tanker from the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.[10]

Departments continued to spring up out of necessity. For example, the tiny Bear Creek Fire Department, located about five miles north of Seward, relates this history:

> In 1976 a roadside food market caught fire during the night at mile 5.8 of the Seward Highway. A call for help dispatched Seward Volunteer Fire Department with one truck and several volunteers from their station 5 miles away.
>
> After arriving on scene, the engine quickly emptied its 500 gallons of water. The apparatus wasn't equipped to draft water and could only refill through a hydrant. Unfortunately, there were no hydrants within 4 miles and the market burned to the ground.
>
> After this disastrous fire, friends and neighbors of the roadside market united to establish the Bear Creek Fire Service Area.[11]

---

[4] Fairbanks Firefighters, *www.fairbanksfirefighters.org/?zone=/unionactive/view_article.cfm&HomeID=81474&page=FFD20History.*

[5] University of Alaska Fire Department, *http://uaf.edu/fire/about/.*

[6] Seward Fire Department, *http://sewardfire.com/.*

[7] Municipality of Anchorage Fire Department, *www.muni.org/Departments/Fire/Pages/AboutAFD.aspx.*

[8] The Anchorage Fire Department provides an extensive history of the department at *www.muni.org/Departments/works/admin/PublicArt/Documents/FTC%20Users%20and%20MOA%20Fire%20Dept%20History.pdf.*

[9] "History of Nome," Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, 2011, accessed at *www.visitnomealaska.com/PDF%27s/history-of-nome.pdf.*

[10] Ester Volunteer Fire Department, *www.esterfire.org/aboutus.html.*

[11] Bear Creek Fire Department, *www2.borough.kenai.ak.us/BearCreekFire/history.html* . The Bear Creek Fire Service Area received nearly $4 million from the state in 2013 for the construction of a multi-purpose facility.

The Girdwood Fire Department was established in 1959. Girdwood residents organized to form Girdwood EMS in responses to a 1974 incident in which an ambulance took over an hour and half to arrive from Anchorage to treat the victims of an attack.[12]

History of the Division of Fire and Life Safety

On March 23, 1955, an arson fire in a building next door to the Territorial Police offices in Anchorage "sparked" the creation of the Office of the Fire Marshal.[13] On December 5, 1956, the first Territorial Fire Safety Code was adopted. Shortly after Statehood, on September 15, 1959, Robert F. Crouse was appointed as the first Alaska State Fire Marshal and served until 1967. He was named National Fire Marshal of the Year in 1965. That same year, the Legislature authorized a statewide fire training position within the Department of Vocational Education, to be overseen by William A. Hagevig from the Ketchikan Fire Department. An example of the success of fire training programs was provided in the September 1968 Fire Marshal's Newsletter as follows:

> Chief Boddy answered a call for help from the State Fire Marshal's Office in 1966 in order to assist in training volunteer firefighters at the Pribilofs. Following [a] tragic fire earlier that year, in which eight children and one adult lost their lives, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries requested training for the two existing volunteer companies at the Pribilofs. Besides Chief Boddy, Lieutenant William Hagevig of the Ketchikan Volunteer Fire Department and Assistant Fire Marshal Andre Schalk went on this expedition. As a result, to date, there are two very active and well trained departments in St. Paul and St. George. At least, during a large warehouse fire, shortly after the team of instructors left, part of the building and all of the cases of beer were saved.[14]

In 1967, the Division of Fire Prevention was organized in the Alaska Department of Public Safety, and in the mid-1970s, five regional fire training centers were constructed around the state, in Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks, Kotzebue, and Bethel. In 2003, the Division, now called the Division of Fire and Life Safety, was reorganized into its three current bureaus—Life Safety and Inspection, Plan Review, and Training and Education.

Current Firefighters, Duties and Responsibilities

Today, there are at least 1,000 professional firefighters in Alaska, and many more volunteer firefighters, working in numerous fire departments and agencies across the state. There are currently 145 fire departments registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety.[15]

Fire departments responded to at least 60,000 incidents in 2013, based on reports to the Alaska National Fire Incident Reporting System (ANFIRS). Of these reported incidents, the vast majority (about 95 percent) were non-fire incidents, primarily emergency medical services (EMS) or rescue calls (64 percent). We include, as Attachment A, an excerpt from the 2013 "Fire in Alaska" report showing the types of calls fire departments responded to. The report estimates that a fire department responded to a call every nine minutes in Alaska.

According to the Alaska State Firefighters Association, volunteers comprise almost 90 percent of firefighters throughout Alaska, but the number of volunteers has declined by more than 20 percent over the past two decades. Volunteers are

---

[12] Girdwood Fire Department, *www.girdwoodfire.com/about*.

[13] "A Brief History of the Division of Fire Prevention," by retired Deputy Fire Marshal Walter Winston and Public Education Coordinator Jodie Hettrick. The document can be accessed at *www.dps.state.ak.us/Fire/docs/history.pdf*.

[14] "A Brief History of the Division of Fire Prevention."

[15] The Department of Public Safety lists the registered departments as well as 106 fire departments that may be active but are not currently registered at *http://dps.alaska.gov/fire/fdregistration.aspx*.

typically required to complete basic fire and emergency medical services (EMS) training, and may be called to respond to a variety of situations, including fires, emergency medical incidents, natural disasters, hazardous materials incidents, water rescue emergencies, and other emergencies.[16] Professional firefighters typically require more extensive training. Several universities in Alaska offer formal training programs, with associate degrees offered by the University of Alaska Anchorage, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Ilisagvik College in Barrow.

Fires and firefighting in Alaska extend into the wilderness. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, the fifth, sixth, and seventh largest single fires on record in the U.S. all occurred in Alaska – the Inowak fire in 1997 (610,000 acres), the Boundary fire in 2004 (537,098 acres), and the Minto Flats South fire in 2009 (517,078 acres).[17] Wildfire fighters are coordinated through the federal Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Alaska Fire Service; the U.S. Forest Service, and the State Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry Fire and Aviation Program.

In the 2013 "Fire in Alaska" report, State Fire Marshal Kelly Nicolello noted the following:

> Normally I would highlight areas of concern, however, this year I want to highlight a few areas of success. From calendar year 2012 to 2013, civilian fire deaths are down 44%, civilian injuries are down 23% and firefighter injuries are down 33%. Considering that total fires during the same time period increased 6%, structure fires increased 2% and brush/wildland fires increased 24%. Essentially, you responded to more fire incidents with greater positive effect and kept yourselves safer in the process. Congratulations![18]

National and State Memorials and Dates of Honor

National Fire Prevention Week is celebrated the week in October that includes October 9, the day the Great Chicago Fire in 1871 did most of its damage. The week has been celebrated nationally every year since 1925, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation honors all firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year on the second weekend of October.[19] Many states also honor firefighters locally in conjunction with these national events.[20] Many European countries and Australia honor firefighters on International Firefighters Day, May 4, which is the feast day of St. Florian, the patron saint of firefighters.

Another date associated with honoring firefighters is September 11. Many Alaska communities honor their firefighters in connection with 9-11 remembrances. For example, in Anchorage, 9-11 ceremonies are held at the Fire Memorial, which was dedicated on September 11, 2011, to honor firefighters who died in the line of duty in Alaska.

The Alaska State Firefighters Association provides information about many of the individuals honored on the memorial at *http://alaskastatefirefighters.org/FireMemorial.aspx*. Events resulting in the death of multiple firefighters honored through the memorial include the following:

> October 13, 1941 – five service men and one officer of the Fort Ray U.S. Army Firefighter detail died during an explosion in a dynamite and ammunition shed on the Fort Ray causeway on Japonski Island near Sitka. Many other service people and civilians were also injured.

---

[16] Alaska State Firefighters Association, *http://alaskastatefirefighters.org/Volunteer/LearnMore.aspx.*

[17] "Historically Significant Wildland Fires," National Interagency Fire Center, accessed at *www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo_stats_histSigFires.html.*

[18] Annual "Fire in Alaska" reports from 2004 to 2013 can be accessed through *http://dps.alaska.gov/fire/alaskafirestatistics.aspx.*

[19] National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, *www.firehero.org/events/memorial-weekend/.*

[20] The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation maintains a list of fire memorials in other states at *www.firehero.org/fallen-firefighters/state-firefighter-memorials/.*

June 22, 1968 – a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) aerial fire tanker crashed into Joaquin Mountain en route to a fire, killing the pilot, co-pilot, helicopter mechanic, and a passenger.

July 3, 1970 – four BLM firefighters and an aircraft pilot (names unknown) were killed during a plane crash after take-off from McGrath, Alaska. [21]

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

[21] Alaska State Firefighters Association, *http://alaskastatefirefighters.org/FireMemorial.aspx.*

Attachment A

Excerpt from *Fire in Alaska 2013*, Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire and Life Safety

Alaska 2013 Fire Picture at a Glance

Fire departments reporting to Alaska National Fire Incident Reporting System (ANFIRS) had 61,607 responses in 2013, with 1,603 of these responses reporting mutual aid assistance.

2013 State Incident Summary

Total Responses	**61,607**
Less Mutual Aid Responses	*-1,603*
Total Incidents	**60,004**

2013 State Fire Incident Breakdown.

Structure Fires	747
Confined and/or Contained Inside Structure Fires	489
Motor Vehicle Fires	487
Tree, Brush, or Grass Fires	542
Outside Rubbish or Trash Fires	398
Other Outside Fires	80
Other Fires	12
Exposures	68
Total Fires	**2,823**

2013 State Non-Fire Incident Breakdown:

Rescue/EMS	38,646
Explosion – No After Fire	43
Hazardous Conditions	1,449
Service Calls	3,761
Good Intent Calls	8,524
Other Calls	125
False Alarms	4,633
Total Non-Fires	**57,181**

Alaska's 2013 Time Clock. Every. . .

- 1 minute a fire caused $89.78 damage
- 9 minutes a fire department responded to a call
- 13 minutes a fire department responded to a rescue call
- 1 hour a fire department responded to a good intent call
- 1 hour a fire department responded to a false call
- 3 hours a fire department responded to a fire call
- 2 hours a fire department responded to a service call
- 6 hours a fire department responded to a hazardous call
- 11 hours a fire department responded to a structure fire
- 17 hours a fire department responded to a vehicle fire
- 9 hours a fire department responded to a residential fire

ALASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 111222 ANCHORAGE, AK 99511
North Pole – Fairbanks – Shemya – Anchorage – Kotzebue – Juneau – Ketchikan
www.alaskapffa.org

The Honorable Bob Lynn
Alaska State Capitol Room 108
Juneau, Alaska 99801

In Reference to HB56 "An act establishing Firefighters' Day"

Dear Representative Lynn,

On behalf of the Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association and its 485 members from North Pole to Ketchikan, we write you in support of HB56. Our members are on duty 24 hours a day 365 days a year staffing fire stations across the state. They account for roughly 80% of the fire and emergency medical services (EMS) calls in Alaska providing a first class service to our communities. These men and women are very humbled to receive any recognition for what they do, but we know that public safety is a priority of every Alaskan community and appreciate the efforts put forth by Representative Lynn.

Every October fire departments across Alaska begin Fire Prevention Month. The importance of this month to us speaks volumes within our cities. For the entire month local firefighters reach out to community groups and schools to educate individuals on fire safety and prevention. Including Firefighters' Day in the month of October only helps us increase the awareness and importance of our messages during Fire Prevention month.

We stand in support of this effort and look forward to assisting your office as this legislation moves forward.

Thomas Wescott
President
Alaska Professional
Fire Fighters Association
PO Box 111222
Anchorage, AK 99511

ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

217 2nd Street, Suite 200 Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-1325 Fax (907) 463-5480
www.alaskafirechiefs.org

February 9, 2015

Representative Bob Lynn
Alaska State Capitol, #108
120 4th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Reference: HB 56 "An Act establishing Alaska Firefighters' Day"

Dear Representative Lynn,

On behalf of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association I am writing you in support of HB 56 "An Act establishing Alaska Firefighters' Day".

The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association appreciates your efforts to recognize the firefighters from across the State of Alaska who serve their communities. Your sponsor statement very eloquently describes the need for such a day to recognize the sacrifices our firefighters go through to protect their families, friends, neighbors, communities, and the visitors to the great State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jeff Tucker, Fire Chief
2nd Vice-President
Alaska Fire Chiefs Association

February 20, 2015

Mark Hall
Fire Chief
Alaska Safety
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC
Representative Lynn
Alaska State Capitol, #108
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Lynn:

As Fire Chief for Hilcorp Alaska and as a retired member of the Anchorage Fire Department for 24.5 years, I am writing you to express my support for HB 56, "An act Establishing Alaska Firefighters' Day."

Having spent many years working as a firefighter in many capacities, I hold a deep appreciation for the difficult and dangerous duties performed around the clock by firefighters. Too often, their work for the great State of Alaska goes unnoticed. Therefore I appreciate your putting forward HB 56 to help remind all Alaskans of those who daily put their life on the line for their safety, and for the safety of all the land in our beautiful state.

Sincerely,

Mark Hall
Fire Chief
Alaska Safety
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC

21 February 2015

HB 56

Firefighters dedicate their lives to the protection of life and property. Here in Alaska, as it is nationwide, that dedication is in the form of countless hours volunteered over many years, in others it is many selfless years working in the industry. In all cases it risks the ultimate sacrifice of a firefighter's life.

House Bill 56 would set aside a day when Alaskan's can reflect, recognize and honor the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible. It is also a day in which current and past firefighters can be thanked for their contributions.

It will be a day to remember the past firefighters who have died while serving our community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all. At the same time, we can show our support and appreciation to the firefighters statewide who continue to protect us so well throughout the year. For these unsung heroes this is not so much to ask for all they give. Many hours are spent away from family for the volunteer firefighters, who train so diligently, and then to go on to serve their communities and state. Paid personnel, more often than naught go above and beyond the hours they are paid to protect their communities.

A day set aside dedicated to these "heroes" is the least we can do. I urge you to support and move HB 56 to fruition.

Respectfully representing the finest people I know.....the volunteer fire service of the great State of Alaska.

S. Koklich E.M.

Suzie Hill Koklich
Alaska Director
National Volunteer Fire Council
P.O. Box 876
Valdez, Alaska 99686

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	HB 56
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(H) Publish Date:	2/25/2015

Identifier: HB056-DOA-FAC-02-20-15
Title: ALASKA FIREFIGHTERS' DAY
Sponsor: LYNN, CLAMAN
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Administration
Appropriation: General Services
Allocation: Facilities
OMB Component Number: 2429

Expenditures/Revenues

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

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2016 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2016 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY 2016**	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version

Prepared By:	Tom Mayer, Director	Phone:	(907)465-5677
Division:	General Services	Date:	02/20/2015 10:00 AM
Approved By:	Sheldon Fisher, Commissioner	Date:	02/20/15
Agency:	Department of Administration		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This bill establishes the Sunday preceeding October 9 of every year to honor Alaska's firefighters. Should October 9 fall on a Sunday, the observance would be on October 9. The Department of Administration, Division of General Services does not anticipate any fiscal impact from the proposed legislation.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	HB 56
Fiscal Note Number:	2
(H) Publish Date:	2/25/2015

Identifier: HB56-LEG-SESS-02-20-15
Title: ALASKA FIREFIGHTERS' DAY
Sponsor: LYNN, CLAMAN
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Alaska Legislature
Appropriation: Legislative Operating Budget
Allocation: Session Expenses
OMB Component Number: 782

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2016 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2016 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY 2016**	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency?
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Initial Version

Prepared By: Jessica Geary, Finance Manager — Phone: (907)465-6626
Division: Legislative Affairs Agency — Date: 02/20/2015 09:40 AM
Approved By: Pamela Varni, Executive Director — Date: 02/20/15
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This legislation has zero fiscal impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.

Login Register

Alaska State Fire Fighters Association

Home Fire Memorial Members Alaska Fire Conference Join The ASFA Volunteer

Fire Memorial

Search...

Donate

Honor Those Who Have Fallen in The Line of Duty

Read more information about each Fallen Firefighter by clicking on their name

Captain Francis C. Allen, Army FF Sitka, AK October 13, 1941

Private Ralph Kirkbride, Army FF Sitka, AK October 13, 1941

Private Frank C. Hayton, Army FF, Sitka, AK October 13, 1941

Private Hedley C. Estrabrook, Army FF, Sitka, AK October 13, 1941

Hugh "Bill" Rudolph, Juneau Fire Department, June 4, 1946

Harry V. Newell, Ketchikan Fire Department, April 7, 1955

Arden Davis, Jr. BLM Alaska Fire Service, May 11, 1966

Thomas Dunnigan, Spenard Volunteer Fire Dept, May 28, 1967

Pilot & Co-Pilot, N9937Z, BLM, Alaska, June 27, 1967

Pilot, Co-Pilot, 2 flight crew, N7974A, BLM, Alaska, June 22, 1968

Mark Westover, BLM Alaska Fire Service, June 29, 1969

Gregory Pete, BLM Alaska Fire Service, July 3, 1970

Edwig Pete, BLM Alaska Fire Service, July 3, 1970

Cyril James Pete, BLM Alaska Fire Service, July 3, 1970

Micheal Benna, BLM Alaska Fire Service, July 3, 1970

Roy Kirk, BLM Alaska Fire Service, July 3, 1970

Donald Hyde, Ft. Wainwright Fire Department, April 27, 1971

Samuel Greiner, BLM Alaska Fire Service, June 28, 1971

Pilot, N5330Y, BLM, Alaska, June 25, 1974

Charles Whitethorn, Anchorage Fire Department, February 6, 1976

Christy Pennington, Ester Fire Department, March 15, 1991

David Liston, BLM Alaska Fire Service, April 29, 2000

Christopher Kobierowski, Delta Junction Fire Department, April 6, 2001

Molly Ahlgren, Sitka Vol. Fire Department, November 30, 2004

Tim McKeown, Mat-Su Borough Fire Rescue, September 1, 2006

Andy Mullen, Anchorage Fire Department, October 11, 2010

Jeff Bayless, Anchorage Fire Department. March 7, 2014

House Bill 56, Alaska Firefighter's Day

For the record my Name is Kelly Nicolello, I am the Director of the Department of Public Safety Division of Fire and Life Safety and commonly referred to as the Alaska State Fire Marshal.

Mr. Chair, It is my pleasure to testify on behalf of this bill. There are approximately 1,500 firefighters across this state made up of career municipal, borough, wildland and airport firefighters and then there are approximately 6,000 volunteer municipal, borough, village, and wildland firefighters; all are considered professionals who serve their communities with their heart, soul, pocketbooks and sometimes their lives. The vast majority of firefighters are volunteers who have other fulltime careers. All firefighters dedicate many extra hours to learn, train, equip and respond to local emergency situations. Little or nothing is asked for in material return for their community services nor does the general public understand the sacrifice of time and commitment it takes for their service.

Firefighters have a deep pride in what they do; their self-respect and satisfaction comes from knowing they make an immediate and impactful difference when someone is having one of their worse moments. They make things right, they console, they save lives and property and if you ask anyone of them, that's good enough for them. But I have to tell you Mr. Chair, respect and appreciation for their service is a currency they truly appreciate. When that appreciation is raised to a state level by their elected officials it becomes an investment in their future work and provides a huge return on the

investment for your recognition for the people they serve and duties they perform.

The recognition of Alaska Firefighter Day is a great way to demonstrate that their personal involvement means more than what happens locally. The service they perform has a direct impact on the quality of life of those around them and is recognized as a positive contribution to Alaska as a whole.

I think it is appropriate to recognize Alaska Firefighter's Day during Fire Prevention Week. It is a week we remember those firefighters who have lost their lives in the performance of their duties. We concentrate on the education of children in the principals of fire safety throughout schools and community organizations and what's a better day than a Sunday to thank God for what they do and show them the appreciation they deserve. I would ask you to move HB 56 forward.

Thank You