



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee

REP. CHRIS TUCK

Chairman
State Capitol, Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux, Vice-Chair
Rep. Justin Parish
Rep. Ivy Spohnholz

Rep. Dan Saddler
Rep. Lora Reinbold
Rep. George Rauscher

House Bill 126

“An Act relating to workers’ compensation benefits for members of the organized militia.”

The Alaska State Legislature and Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs have been working together to modernize the 1955 Alaska Military Code by providing statutory changes that will better serve our Alaska organized militia.

House Bill 126 would expand workers’ compensation coverage to the organized militia while they are participating training exercises. Currently, Alaska statutes already provides workers’ compensation coverage during active state service, but not during training. By expanding this protection, we could potentially provide a fiscally significant coverage and save the state money in the future.

This issue came to light during an incident when a member of the Alaska State Defense Force suffered an injury during a training exercise that led to his inability to work. Since workers’ compensation was not available, this injury ultimately cost the state twice the amount of the entire annual budget of the Alaska State Defense Force. The Risk Management Division of the Alaska Department of Administration estimates there would be little to no additional cost to cover the Alaska State Defense Force members under existing state workers’ compensation policies.

As we face tight fiscal times, it is important that we are taking steps to ensure cost savings where we can and pass responsible legislation that will protect Alaskans.