

Sponsor Statement for HB 480

State Employee Death/Survivor Benefits

"An Act relating Survivor Benefits"

Updated: March 18, 2002 (CSHB 480 (STA))

Contact: Representative Fred Dyson's office at (907) 465-2199

We have State of Alaska employees who are at varying levels of risk of assault because of the very nature of their work. Family caseworkers, investigators, building inspectors, and even teachers, have responsibilities that cause some citizens to have misdirected anger and resentment.

Our state laws allow for occupational death benefits for the families of Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and Teacher Retirement System (TRS) when employees are killed while in the performance, and within the scope of, their duties.

However, the family of an employee that is killed off their job site, but because of their work, would only be eligible to receive lesser non-occupational death benefits.

[HB 480](#) corrects this oversight by providing occupational death benefits for the families of these state employees.