

**Representative Carl Gatto**

**Representative Max Gruenberg**

## **SPONSOR STATEMENT**

### **HB 351**

#### **Carbon Monoxide Detection Devices**

The recent deaths of all five members of an Anchorage family from carbon monoxide poisoning in their home has prompted introduction of [House Bill 351](#) that will require carbon monoxide detectors to be installed and maintained in most Alaskan homes. This bill adds carbon monoxide detection devices to the requirement in Alaska state statute ([AS 18.70.095](#)) that homeowners install and maintain smoke detectors and adds that landlords shall install the devices to be maintained by their tenants.

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, carbon monoxide poisoning is the leading cause of accidental poisoning in America annually, claiming the lives of 1,500-2,000 people in the United States and hospitalizing an additional 10,000. Also, continuous exposure to low levels of carbon monoxide can compromise the efficiency of young children's brains in processing information.

Carbon monoxide detectors are essential because carbon monoxide is invisible to the human senses—it is odorless, tasteless, colorless, and non-irritating. Without a carbon monoxide alarm, one doesn't know they're being poisoned.

Representatives Carl Gatto and Max Gruenberg have co-introduced this bill in order to help save Alaskan lives and to prevent long-term illnesses in children.

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### **CSHB 350 (State Affairs) Compensation for Victims of Arson**

Late last summer a home in Anchorage was severely damaged by a fire deliberately set by an unknown perpetrator while the family was asleep. Fortunately the family survived without injury. However many other arson victims have not been so fortunate. Deliberately setting a fire that endangers someone else is first-degree arson, a class A felony. Current Alaska law does not include first-degree arson on the list of crimes for which victims may receive compensation from the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB). CSHB 350 (State Affairs) simply adds arson to the list of crimes for which victims may receive compensation.