

ALASKA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



SENATOR JOHN COGHILL

SB 168 Certification and Designation of Trauma Centers

Sponsor Statement 26-LS0437\E

This legislation would create a trauma care fund which could reimburse trauma centers for uncompensated or undercompensated services. The bill would create incentives for becoming a certified trauma center but does not force facilities to become certified trauma centers.

Trauma is the leading cause of death for Alaskans between the age of one and forty-four and more than 800 Alaskans are hospitalized each year for spinal cord and brain injuries.

There is a "golden hour" after the injury during which proper treatment and appropriate interventions will potentially save a patient's life and prevent further damage to an injured person. Personal trauma is any bodily injury from an external force including car crashes, shootings, falls, snow machine crashes, and stabbings.

A good trauma system is an organized multidisciplinary response to managing treatment of severely injured people and it spans the full spectrum from prevention and emergency care to recovery and rehabilitation. A trauma system enhances the chance of survival by making sure patients are brought to the most appropriate facility in the most efficient manner and that optimal care is delivered every step of the way. Alaska has many good parts to our trauma response but we must do better.

SB 168 creates a trauma care fund to provide funding for hospitals as an incentive to become certified trauma care centers and allows for general fund dollars generated from alcohol taxes to be utilized for providing dollars for the fund.