

HOUSE BILL NO. 44

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHSON

Introduced: 1/17/25

Referred: Prefiled

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to workers' compensation death benefits; and providing for an**
2 **effective date."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 23.30.215(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) If the injury causes death, the compensation is known as a death benefit
6 and is payable in the following amounts to or for the benefit of the following persons:

7 (1) reasonable and necessary funeral expenses not exceeding \$12,000;

8 (2) if there is a widow or widower or a child or children of the
9 deceased, the following percentages of the spendable weekly wages of the deceased:

10 (A) 80 percent for the widow or widower with no children;

11 (B) 50 percent for the widow or widower with one child and 40
12 percent for the child;

13 (C) 30 percent for the widow or widower with two or more
14 children and 70 percent divided equally among the children;

1 (D) 100 percent for an only child when there is no widow or
2 widower;

3 (E) 100 percent, divided equally, if there are two or more
4 children and no widow or widower;

5 (3) if the widow or widower remarries, the widow or widower is
6 entitled to be paid in one sum an amount equal to the compensation to which the
7 widow or widower would otherwise be entitled in the two years commencing on the
8 date of remarriage as full and final settlement of all sums due the widow or widower;

9 (4) if there is no widow or widower or child or children, then for the
10 support of father, mother, grandchildren, brothers, and sisters, if dependent on the
11 deceased at the time of injury, 42 percent of the spendable weekly wage of the
12 deceased to such beneficiaries, share and share alike, not to exceed \$150,000 in the
13 aggregate;

14 (5) \$8,000 to a surviving widow or widower, or equally divided among
15 surviving children of the deceased if there is no widow or widower; **and**

16 **(6) if there is no widow or widower or child or children, and the**
17 **father, mother, grandchildren, brothers, and sisters were not dependent on the**
18 **deceased at the time of injury, the following amounts are payable in a lump sum:**

19 **(A) \$120,000 to the surviving parent, if there is only one**
20 **surviving parent;**

21 **(B) \$120,000 divided equally among the surviving parents,**
22 **if there are two or more surviving parents; or**

23 **(C) \$120,000 to the estate of the decedent, if there are no**
24 **surviving parents.**

25 * **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.