

HOUSE BILL NO. 231

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAWKER

Introduced: 4/15/09
Referred: Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to qualifications of ocean rangers serving aboard large commercial**
2 **passenger vessels."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 46.03.476 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 46.03.476. Ocean rangers [RANGERS].** (a) An owner or operator of a
6 large commercial passenger vessel entering the marine waters of the state is required
7 to have **(1)** a marine engineer licensed by the United States Coast Guard **or (2) a**
8 **person who holds a degree in marine safety and environmental protection, or an**
9 **equivalent course of study approved by the department, from an accredited**
10 **maritime educational institution** [HIRED OR RETAINED BY THE
11 DEPARTMENT] on board the vessel to act as an independent observer for the
12 purpose of monitoring state and federal requirements pertaining to marine discharge
13 and pollution requirements and to insure that passengers, crew, and residents at ports
14 are protected from improper sanitation, health, and safety practices.

1 (b) The **person whose presence is required by (a) of this section**
2 [LICENSED MARINE ENGINEER] shall monitor, observe, and record data and
3 information related to the engineering, sanitation, and health related operations of the
4 vessel, including but not limited to registration, reporting, record-keeping, and
5 discharge functions required by state and federal law.

6 (c) Any information recorded or gathered by the **person whose presence is**
7 **required by (a) of this section** [LICENSED MARINE ENGINEER] shall be
8 promptly conveyed to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the
9 United States Coast Guard on a form or in a manner approved by the commissioner of
10 environmental conservation. The commissioner may share information gathered with
11 other state and federal agencies.