

30th Alaska State Legislature

Judiciary Committee
Chairman
Resources Committee
Vice-Chair
Education Committee
Vice-Chair
State Affairs Committee
Select Committee on Legislative Ethics
Joint Armed Services Committee



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SB 122 Sectional

Section 1.

AS 24.55.400. Establishes the Citizen Review Panel in the legislative branch of state government under the office of the ombudsman and instructs the panel to emphasize public participation in the panel's work and to bring all the stake holders on the panel.

The panel will meet at least every three months and it will establish guidelines for its operation.

Gives the panel the authority to investigate individual cases if it deems necessary.

AS 24.55.405. Requires the panel to reviews policies and procedures of OCS on an annual basis and review reports submitted annually to the federal government. The panel is given statutory authority to recommend and advocate for changes to the department's child protection services.

It requires OCS to provide the CRP the following state plans submitted to the federal government annually:

State plan for grants for child abuse or neglect prevention and treatment programs. (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b))

State plan for delivery of child welfare services prepared jointly by the state and the Secretary of Health and Human Services. (42 U.S.C. 621 – 629m)

AS 24.55.410. Mandates that OCS SHALL consult with the CRP and assist the panel in carrying out its duties, including providing case-specific information to the panel.

AS 24.55.415. Makes information delivered at a CRP meeting confidential and the CRP must follow the Open Meetings Act giving public notice and restricting the CRP members from meeting privately.

AS 24.55.420. Provides for public outreach and public comment.

AS 24.55.425. Provides for the CRP to prepare an annual report to be available to the governor, legislature and public. Requires OCS to submit a written response to the report within six months of its release. Requires the panel and the department to prepare a joint report to the governor, legislature and public every three years.

AS 24.55.430. Sets a penalty of up to \$2,500 for each violation of confidentiality a person is convicted of.

AS 24.55.435. Provides immunity for panel members from liability in panel actions.

AS 24.55.440. Definitions.

Department is the DHSS.

Panel is the Citizens Review Panel

***Sec. 2.** Gives the CRP access to confidential documents regarding child protection cases.

***Sec. 3.** Repeals the Alaska Statutes that put the CRP under the jurisdiction of DHSS.

***Sec. 4.** Requires DHSS to do a two-year review of existing processes for reviewing and overseeing the work of OCS and outline a plan to reduce duplication and improved coordination amongst agencies involved in child protection. The report will be delivered to the senate secretary, house chief clerk, the governor and the general public.

Sec. 5. Gives the office of the ombudsman regulatory authority.

Sec. 6. Transition language that allows existing panel members to serve out their term on the panel even though it has been moved from the department.

The bill does not have an effective date.