

Representative Mike Hawker

Alaska State Legislature



House Bill 26

Sponsor Statement

“An Act repealing the repeal of preventative and restorative adult dental services reimbursement under Medicaid; providing for an effective date by repealing the effective date of sec. 3, ch. 52, SLA 2006; and providing for an effective date.”

House Bill 26 would extend the current Medicaid Adult Dental program, which is scheduled to sunset this year. In 2006, the legislature passed House Bill 105, which restructured our approach to adult dental services allowed under Medicaid to provide a more complete level of services.

Prior to 2006, adults on Medicaid could only receive emergency care to relieve pain and fight infection. The passage of HB 105 authorized exams, cleaning, tooth restoration or extraction and dentures. In short, Alaska moved from a “Deferred Maintenance” to a “Preventative Maintenance” approach for adult dental care.

In order to have a chance to assess the viability of the program, the legislature added a sunset to the program of June 30, 2009. House Bill 26 would remove the sunset, allowing the program to become permanent.

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