



REPRESENTATIVE CATHY MUÑOZ

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HOUSE BILL 343

"An Act relating to disclosure of records of the Department of Health and Social Services pertaining to children in certain circumstances; and providing for an effective date."

House Bill 343 has been introduced at the request of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to:

- 1) Assure that the Division of Juvenile Justice and the Office of Children's Services may exchange information to provide necessary services to children without undue delay.
- 2) Allow individuals with a legitimate interest – such as former clients who once were children in state custody, their parents, or guardians – to receive information about delinquency history and health records from the Division of Juvenile Justice to help them apply for jobs, obtain student loans, or get health care.
- 3) Clarifies current law regarding public disclosure of juvenile information which state officials say is cumbersome and difficult to interpret. The legislation strives to preserve legislative intent of balancing public safety through disclosing appropriate information on serious offenders with protecting the confidentiality of offenders who pose less risk to society.