

HOUSE BILL NO. 355

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE TARR

Introduced: 2/26/14

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing in the Department of Health and Social Services a first aid training**
2 **program for mental health interventions."**

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 47.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 47.30.595. Mental health first aid training.** (a) The department shall
6 establish a program to provide mental health first aid training to mental health service
7 providers and to residents of the state to assist in the identification of a mental health
8 or substance abuse disorder in persons who are less than 18 years of age and to
9 provide instruction in effective intervention strategies to prevent or to deescalate a
10 mental health or substance abuse crisis. The department may contract with experts to
11 provide the training or to develop training materials.

12 (b) The training program established under this section shall be provided
13 periodically in all regions of the state either in person or by electronic means. The
14 department may charge a reasonable training fee to cover the costs of the program and

1 materials.

2 (c) A person may receive a waiver of a training fee by applying for a waiver
3 on a form approved by the department. Waiver of the fee is subject to the availability
4 of other funding sources sufficient to support the training.