

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:
State Capitol Building,
Room 424
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2186
Phone (907) 465-4230
Fax: (907) 465-3883
Toll Free: (877) 465-4976



Interim:
1292 Sadler Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 452-6084
Fax: (907) 452-6096

REPRESENTATIVE PETE HIGGINS

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Explanation of changes for House CS for CS SB 169\T

Section 1. Adds Article 1A Statewide Immunization Program to AS 18.09.

Sec. 18.09.200(a). Establishes a statewide immunization program in the Department for the purpose of monitoring, purchasing, and distributing vaccines to providers.

Sec. 18.09.200(b). The Department of Health and Social Services shall maintain a list of recommended vaccines for inclusion in the program; establish the 1st year's assessment & thereafter make annual assessments based on commission determinations; notify insurers and other program participants of the assessment amount; devise a method for crediting overpayments; coordinate the bulk purchase of vaccine; set procedures for distributing vaccines; and review appeals for errors.

Sec. 18.09.210. Establishes the State Vaccine Assessment Council within HSS for the purpose of determining the assessment amount. The council has 8 members appointed by the Commissioner: the state's Chief Medical Officer (chair); Director of Division Insurance; 3 health care insurers, one of whom must be a plan administrator; 2 health care providers, one of which must be a pediatrician; and 1 representing a tribal or public health insurance plan who serve without compensation or reimbursement of expenses. Terms are 3 years with a 2- term limit. HSS will provide staff and other assistance to the council. The commission establishes and implements a plan of operation, submits an annual financial report to HSS each July 1st, and monitors compliance with the program.

Sec. 18.09.210(f)(2). Requires an annual financial report to the commissioner and legislature.

Sec. 18.09.220(a) Establishes the vaccine assessment and reporting requirements after being phased into the program by the commissioner.

Sec.18.09.220(e). An assessable entity may opt out of the program during the three year phase-in period.

Sec. 18.09.225(a). Allows health care providers to opt into the program to purchase vaccine.

Sec. 18.09.225(b) A health care provider who did not opt into the program may not be denied a claim from an assessable entity.

Sec. 18.09.230. Creates a special account in the general fund for the purpose of purchasing vaccines. The legislature may appropriate program receipts from vaccine assessments, money from other sources, and interest earned. Appropriations do not lapse.

Sec. 18.09.240. Allows the commissioner to determine a monetary penalty for noncompliance.

Section 2. 18.09.990. Defines the terms assessable entity, commissioner (Health & Social Services), council, covered individual, other program participant, program, provider, recommended vaccine, and vaccine.

Section 3. Requires assessable entities to provide information to the department under (AS 21.09.242)

Section 4. Adds the vaccine assessment account to the list of special accounts for program receipts in (AS 37.05.146(c))

Section 5. repeals this act on January 1, 2019

Section 6. Repeals Ch. 24, SLA 2012 (HB310), a temporary statewide immunization program.

Section 7. Redirects the remaining HB310 funds to be deposited to the vaccine account.

Section 8. Makes the act effective January 1, 2015.