

# 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

---

March 17, 2014

### CS HB 214(HSS)\O Sectional Analysis

**Section 1.** Adds a mental health grievance appeals to the jurisdiction of the Office of Administrative Hearings.

**Section2.** Requires the Office of Administrative Hearings to maintain confidentiality of records in grievance appeals.

**Section 3.** Adds rights to the list of rights of a person undergoing mental health evaluation or treatment in the state under specified provisions of state law, including involuntary commitments. The additional rights include the right to file a grievance, the right to have a designated representative of their choosing to act as a patient advocate and to assist in filing a grievance, the right to natural support systems, including family, friends, and help networks after being in an locked evaluation facility over three days; and the right to maintain confidentiality of their records unless they chose to release those records.

**Section 4.** Establishes a grievance procedure, including a call center, departmental review and appeal. Establishes three categories of grievances, and their respective reporting requirements. Defines "grievance", "grievant", and "unit".

**Section 5.** Requires the Department of Health and Social Services to provide a standardized notice of patients' rights, assistance, and grievance procedures to mental health evaluation and treatments facilities in the state. Also requires the person in charge of the facility to provide a written copy of the notice to each patient or their representative.

**Section 6.** Repeals AS47.30.660(b)(13). Cancels the department's ability to delegate their powers and duties to another organization, or treatment facility.