

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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CS HB 214()\P Sectional Analysis

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

Section 2. Requires the Office of Administrative Hearings to maintain confidentiality of records in grievance appeals.

Section 3. Amends AS47.30.660 defining and limiting the Powers and Duties the Department can delegate.

Section 4. 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 5. 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 6. 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 7. Requires the Department to provide for a transition period under AS47.30.660.