

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate State Affairs Committee

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Resources Committee  
Health & Social Services Committee  
Finance Subcommittees on:  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Administration  
Department of Public Safety



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## *Sponsor Statement for Senate Bill 90*

*By Senator Bill Stoltze*

**“An Act relating to the purchase of durable medical equipment under Medicaid; and providing for an effective date.”**

Senate Bill 90 will grant the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) the authority to use Medicaid funds for the purchase of durable medical equipment. Currently, federal law allows for the use of Medicaid funds to purchase durable medical equipment, however, under existing DHSS regulations, the purchase of durable medical equipment is prohibited.

Durable medical equipment re-use programs retrieve used medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, and bed lifts, then refurbish and sanitize to like-new condition, and reassign the equipment to individuals at a lower cost than purchasing new medical equipment.

Several states have implemented durable medical equipment re-use programs and realized significant cost savings. As the cost of healthcare rises and the State's revenues decrease, all cost-saving measures must be considered. Allowing for the establishment of a durable medical equipment re-use program is a one more way the State can reduce costs and help alleviate the burden of our fiscal uncertainty.

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