SENATE BILL NO. 91

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 3/10/17
Referred: Health and Social Services

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act extending the governor's declaration of disaster emergency to address the**
2 **opioid epidemic; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
5 to read:
6 FINDINGS. The legislature finds that
7 (1) high rates of heroin use and prescription opioid misuse remain the driving
8 factor behind the unintentional drug overdose epidemic and related deaths in the state;
9 (2) in 2012, the state's prescription opioid overdose death rate was more than
10 double the rate in the United States, and the state's heroin-associated overdose death rate was
11 50 percent higher than the national rate;
12 (3) from 2009 to 2015, the number of heroin-associated deaths in the state
13 more than quadrupled;
14 (4) since 2015, deaths from fentanyl and new synthetic opioids have been

1 documented in the state;

2 (5) to address this public health emergency, on February 14, 2017, the
3 governor issued a declaration of disaster emergency;

4 (6) in the declaration, the governor authorized the commissioner of health
5 and social services and the state medical officer to coordinate a response to the disaster,
6 including establishing a statewide overdose response program and a statewide medical standing
7 order allowing local and regional overdose response programs, health care officials, first
8 responders, and the general public to have the ability to dispense and administer directly an
9 opioid overdose drug;

10 (7) a declaration of disaster emergency under AS 26.23.020 may not remain
11 in effect longer than 30 days unless extended by the Alaska State Legislature; and

12 (8) it is necessary to extend the declaration of disaster emergency issued
13 February 14, 2017, to address adequately the opioid epidemic.

14 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
15 read:

16 OPOIOD EPIDEMIC; EXTENSION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY. Under
17 AS 26.23.020, the Thirtieth Alaska State Legislature extends to February 14, 2018, the
18 declaration of disaster emergency issued by the governor on February 14, 2017, declaring the
19 current opioid epidemic a public health disaster emergency.

20 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
21 read:

22 RETROACTIVITY. This Act is retroactive to March 15, 2017.

23 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).