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HB 234: An Act extending the termination date of the Alaska Health Care Commission; and providing for an effective date

30-LS0370\A

SPONSOR STATEMENT

The Alaska Health Care Commission was first established by Governor Palin on December 4, 2008 under Administrative Order #246. In 2010, the legislature passed SB172, establishing the Alaska Health Care Commission in Statute. The legislature's intent was that the Commission would be a permanent instrument to address the need for health care reform in our state. The Commission worked to identify opportunities, as well as a broad set of strategies, to improve the quality, accessibility and availability of health care for all citizens of the State. These strategies and recommendations can be found in the Commission's reports that were issued annually from 2009-2014.

In 2015 the Commission was defunded. Alaska's need for health care reform remains one of the most critical challenges we face. At \$10 billion in total spending annually—25% of which is administered by the state government—health care is one of Alaska's largest consumer product industries. When this enormous scale is considered in conjunction with the fact that the state government is the largest single payer for those services, there is a clear need for an instrument that identifies the costs and benefits of the health care system, and identifies strategies for ensuring sustainability therein. Extending the Alaska Health Care Commission will give the state a tool to address this crucial priority.