

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA

## **HB 151 Brief Explanation of Changes** (HHS CS version N to version E)

Several changes were made between HHS CS version N of HB 151 (3/24/17) and version E (to be introduced 5/15/17).

The provision in version N extending funding for adoptions and guardianships for youth over age 18 was removed. This change was made throughout the bill (removing sections 2 and 9 of version N). Version E does not contain any extension of funding for adoption and guardianship subsidies.

In version E section 11, an average statewide caseload limit of not more than 13 families per worker (not applying to new workers) is specified. Language was also added to version E section 11 to clarify in greater detail the employees to whom the training and workload standards will apply. Language was added to include employees who work with families to prevent the removal of a child from a home, and who investigate reports of harm. In addition, version E section 11 (c) was changed, to include language related to civil suits.

In section 17, the timeline for implementation of certain sections has been updated, including that the hiring of staff to meet the requirements in section 11 shall occur within three years (versus the two years specified in version N).