



## Sectional Analysis

### SB 171

### Child Abuse; Training Programs; Bree's Law

#### Version A

February 2, 2018

**“An Act renaming portions of the Alaska Safe Children’s Act as Bree’s Law; relating to the practice of marital and family therapy; relating to persons required to report child abuse and neglect; relating to training in crisis response; relating to civil immunity for disclosure of substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor or sexual misconduct against a school district employee; and providing for an effective date.”**

#### *Note: Sec. 1*

*Names AS 14.30.356 Bree’s Law*

**Sec. 1:** Amends uncodified law to name AS 14.30.356 “Bree’s Law.”

#### *Note: Sec. 2*

*Technical edit - requires the Board of Marital and Family Therapy to not only inform their licensees that they are mandatory reporters (as is required in current statute) but also of the training they would be required to take with this bill.*

**Sec. 2:** Amends the Board of Marital and Family Therapy licensing statute to require the board to inform their licensees of the mandatory reporter training required under AS 47.17.021.

#### *Note: Sec. 3*

*Provides limited immunity to employers who share information regarding substantiated accusations of child abuse or misconduct.*

**Sec. 3:** Adds a new subsection to the job performance immunity statute providing limited immunity to employers who disclose information on a current or former employee regarding substantiated accusations of sexual abuse or misconduct of a minor. This change would help prevent persons with a history of sexual abuse or misconduct from moving from one school district to another without the consequences or knowledge of their prior behavior being known.

***Note: Sec. 4-6***

*In conjunction with Section 8 of the bill, removes the crisis response plan training from being required every 2-4 years and updates it to being required annually.*

- Sec. 4:** Removes crisis response plan training in AS 14.08.111 from being required every 2 to 4 year by deleting the reference to AS 14.33.100.
- Sec. 5:** Removes the required crisis response plan training in AS 14.14.090 from being required every 2 to 4 year by deleting the reference to AS 14.33.100.
- Sec. 6:** Removes the required crisis response plan training in AS 14.16.020 from being required every 2 to 4 year by deleting the reference to AS 14.33.100.

***Note: Sec. 7***

*Enhances current training requirements for teachers and parents.*

- Sec. 7:** Modifies existing requirements in AS 14.30.355 for teachers and parents to receive training relating to sexual abuse of a minor to include signs of grooming behavior.

***Note: Sec. 8***

*In conjunction with Sections 4-6 of the bill, changes the crisis response training schedule from being required every 2-4 years to annually. The crisis response plans are updated annually and revised as needed. Requiring a training every 2-4 years means employees can be operating on outdated plans during a crisis situation.*

- Sec. 8** Amends AS 14.33.100 to require school districts provide training in crisis response annually.

***Notes: Sec. 9-10***

*Expands who is required to take the mandatory reporter training to all mandatory reporters under AS 14.17.020, instead of just state and school district employees.*

- Sec. 9** Adds a new subsection to AS 47.17 requiring persons who are mandatory reporters to receive training on the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Current statute only requires mandatory reporters who are state or school district employees to receive this training.
- Requires the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to make available the required training and a certificate of completion either electronically or in a printable version. Requires the department to annually inform child care providers licensed under AS 47 of this training requirement.

Requires the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to annually inform impacted licensees of this training requirement and the available training on DHSS's website.

- Sec. 10** Amends AS 47.17.022 to require mandatory reporter training for volunteers who are existing mandatory reporters under AS 47.17.020.

***Note: Sec. 11-15***

*Technical provisions relating to uncodified law, instructions to the Revisor, and effective dates.*

- Sec. 11** Amends uncodified law, adding a new section naming AS 14.30.356 Bree's Law.
- Sec. 12** Adds instruction to the Revisor to amend the catch line of AS 47.17.022 from "training" to "training for persons who are employed by the state or a school district and required to report abuse or neglect of children."
- Sec. 13** Adds a retroactive clause for the naming of Bree's Law to June 30, 2017 (Sections 1 and 11).
- Sec. 14** Makes the retroactive clause in Section 13 effective immediately.
- Sec. 15** All other sections of the bill take effect January 1, 2019.