

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel
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Explanation of Changes to SB 37

Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program Renewal From Version A to Version S

There were 2 changes made to SB 37 in Senate Finance:

Sections 3, 4 and 5 are new and have to do with changing the “account” to a “fund,” a change suggested by David Teal of Legislative Finance to better protect the fund from a CBR sweep and also give the commissioner more autonomy to react to an outbreak or emergency without having to go to the Legislature.

Under this language, the legislature’s role is limited to appropriating assessments to the fund; the legislature would no longer be required to appropriate money from the fund to the department. If there is an emergency, the AK Vaccine Assessment Council and commissioner can react more nimbly; the council can adjust the assessment fee to cover any extra costs, and the commissioner can cover those extra costs without legislative action.

Section 8 adds a July 1, 2019 effective date to allow for a smooth transition from the multiple appropriations required for a fund transfer (FY19) to the single appropriation required for fund capitalization (FY20).