

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate Health and Social Services Committee

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EXPLANATION OF CHANGES

SB 183: Home and Community Based Waiver Services

Version B to Version I

Version 32-LS1346/I (Senate Health and Social Services)

Throughout:

Changes references from Department of Health and Social Services to Department of Health.

Section 2:

Page 1, line 14

Removed "reduce payment for services." Payment for services is determined through a rate-setting process, if this language remained in the bill, the Department of Health & Social Services would have needed to do an individual assessment for anyone on a waiver if the rates changed in a given year. Assessments for reductions in level of services will still need to occur.

Page 2, line 22

Replaced language so the assessment process for reduced services only applied to personal care services instead of all home and community-based waiver services. Personal care services were the services most frequently referred to in testimony. This change narrows the scope of the bill and reduces implementation costs while still helping the population in need.

Page 2, line 29

Removes "live independently" and goes back to the original statutory language of "materially improved" as the threshold for reducing or terminating services. This means that to reduce or terminate services, an individual needs to have "materially improved" since their last assessment.

Page 3, line 25

Removes language changing the definition for an "independent qualified health care professional." The definition is now what it originally was in statute.

Section 5:

Page 4, line 14

Inserts a new section requiring the Department of Health & Social Services to produce a report that includes:

- An assessment of the payment rates for home and community-based services that address the adequacy of those rates to meet relevant workforce needs
- The number of individuals receiving services, the number of individuals eligible for services, the average amount of time spent on a waitlist, and the average amount of service hours a recipient receives annually, monthly, weekly
- An assessments and recommendations to enhance the delivery of relevant services to eligible individuals

Additional sections were renumbered accordingly.