

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/19/98

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Duncan, Ward, Adams, Ellis, Hoffman, Kelly, Taylor, Wilken, Torgerson, Mackie, Green

REPRESENTATIVES Hudson, Brice, Croft

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Long-Term Care Task Force.

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 WHEREAS the establishment of a system to meet the long-term care needs of aging
4 Alaskans is an important issue not only for elderly persons but also for young and middle-
5 aged Alaskans as they attempt to meet the needs of their parents at the same time that they
6 are facing their own and their children's needs; and

7 WHEREAS the cost of long-term care, whether in a home setting or in an institution,
8 often exceeds an individual's ability to pay for the care either immediately or after a short
9 period of time, causing extreme economic and social stress and hardship for many people who
10 have worked hard for many years and still do not have sufficient assets or income to bear the
11 costs of their care; and

12 WHEREAS residents in a Pioneers' Home have been asked to pay the full cost of
13 their long-term care within seven years, resulting in as much as a 30 percent increase this year
14 in some rates for care in the system; and

15 WHEREAS 80 percent of the cost of care for persons now receiving long-term care
16 in privately operated long-term care facilities is paid through state and federal funds under the
17 Medicaid program; and

1 **WHEREAS** current federal and state long-term care policies of the state have resulted
2 in large subsidies from the state's general fund that will increase in the future, competing with
3 funding for other state programs; and

4 **WHEREAS** the legislature established a working group in 1996 to analyze issues
5 regarding long-term care services in the state, including projected costs to the state of various
6 alternative methods of providing long-term care;

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature establishes the Long-Term Care
8 Task Force to develop an equitable plan for providing long-term care for all Alaskans; and
9 be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall consist of the following nine voting
11 members:

12 (1) three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker
13 of the House of Representatives; at least one member shall be a member of the majority and
14 at least one a member of the minority;

15 (2) three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate; at
16 least one member shall be a member of the majority and at least one a member of the
17 minority;

18 (3) three members of the public, one each chosen by the Governor, the Speaker
19 of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate, from among people who are
20 receiving long-term care, have relatives who are receiving long-term care, are from an
21 organization that represents the interests of people in need of long-term care, are health care
22 providers whose services include long-term care, or have had experience with an Alaska
23 Native organization that delivers long-term care services in a rural area of the state; and be
24 it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following persons may serve on the task force as
26 nonvoting members:

27 (1) the commissioner of health and social services or the commissioner's
28 designee;

29 (2) the commissioner of commerce and economic development or the
30 commissioner's designee; and

31 (3) the commissioner of administration or the commissioner's designee; and

1 be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the public members of the task force shall serve without
3 compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and
4 commissions under AS 39.20.180; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall select a chair and vice-chair from
6 among its voting members, shall meet as frequently as the task force determines necessary to
7 perform its work, may meet during the interim, and may meet and vote by teleconference; and
8 be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall

10 (1) review the work done and the recommendations made by the long-term
11 care working group established under sec. 3, ch. 84, SLA 1996, if available;

12 (2) review existing elder care services in Alaska, including rural Alaska,
13 including the current types of delivered care and the projected future care demands;

14 (3) review the existing Pioneers' Home system, its current types of delivered
15 care, and its projected future care demands, and craft a mission statement for the Pioneers'
16 Home system to set goals to meet long-term senior care needs;

17 (4) prepare a plan, including drafts of legislation that might be necessary to
18 implement the plan, for establishment of an actuarially sound system of long-term care and
19 propose funding options, including options that would allow prepayments by persons desiring
20 coverage for long-term care and require reasonable copayments by the recipients of the care;

21 (5) hold public hearings on the plan, legislation, and funding proposals
22 developed under (4) of this clause;

23 (6) redraft the plan, legislation, and funding proposals based on the comments
24 received at the public hearings and other information that becomes available to the task force;
25 the final plan, with proposed legislation and funding options, shall be available for public
26 review at least 30 days before the convening of the First Regular Session of the Twenty-First
27 Alaska State Legislature; and

28 (7) submit the plan, proposed legislation, and funding options to the Governor
29 and the legislature by the convening of the First Regular Session of the Twenty-First Alaska
30 State Legislature; and be it

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may begin work immediately upon the

- 1 appointment of its full voting membership and is terminated upon the convening of the First
- 2 Regular Session of the Twenty-First Alaska State Legislature.