

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2006

Source
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Legislative
Resolve No.
38



Relating to creating the Task Force to Assess Public Reporting of Health Care Associated Infections.

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

WHEREAS infections associated with health care are a major public health problem in the United States, with an estimated 2,000,000 infections occurring each year; and

WHEREAS infections associated with health care cost 90,000 lives and \$4,500,000,000 in excess health care costs each year; and

WHEREAS, since 2002, six states have enacted legislation that requires hospitals to report hospital-acquired infections to the public; and

WHEREAS advocates of mandatory reporting, including the Consumers Union, believe that making information about infections associated with health care available to the public will enable patients to make more informed choices about their health care and will improve overall health care quality; and

WHEREAS the state does not currently expressly require reporting of infections associated with health care and hospital-acquired infections, except as part of a risk management program;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Task Force to Assess Public Reporting of Health Care Associated Infections is established in the Legislative branch; the task force is composed of 10 members appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives as follows:

- (1) two state senators;
- (2) two state representatives;
- (3) the state chief of epidemiology;
- (4) a consumer of health care who resides in rural Alaska;
- (5) a consumer of health care who resides in urban Alaska;
- (6) a representative of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium;
- (7) a representative of the Alaska Chapter of the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology; and
- (8) a representative of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the public members of the task force may not receive compensation, per diem, or reimbursement for travel or other expenses incurred while serving on the task force, except that the persons appointed as consumers of health care are entitled to reimbursement for lodging and travel expenses incurred while serving on the task force; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall

- (1) conduct a review of the experience of the public with reporting of infections associated with health care and hospitals; and
- (2) develop a white paper to be used for drafting legislation for reporting of infections associated with health care and hospitals that addresses the unique health care challenges in the state, including
 - (A) reporting mechanisms;
 - (B) data sources and possible outcome and process measures to be reported;
 - (C) a timeline for implementation of recommendations; and
 - (D) the infrastructure needed for supporting a robust ongoing reporting system for disseminating accurate data; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may meet during and between legislative sessions; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall deliver the white paper of its findings to the legislature by January 31, 2007; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is terminated on February 1, 2007.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Karleen Jackson, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.