

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Chair Tribal Affairs Committee
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House Education Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee

CS For House Bill 52 (HSS) (34-LS0399\G)

“Minors & Psychiatric Hospitals”

Sectional Analysis for Version “G” 3.23.26

Section One:

Amends AS 47.30 by adding Sec. 47.30.843, mandating minor’s undergoing evaluation or inpatient treatment at a psychiatric hospital have a right, unless otherwise prohibited by law or court order, to confidential communication with their parent, legal guardian or approved adult each week for at least two cumulative hours.

Section Two:

Amends AS 47.32.030 by adding subsections (e) and (f), directing the Department of Health to prepare an annual report to the Legislature. This report must include information regarding minors in psychiatric hospitals and use of seclusion, restraints, and type of psychotropic medication used, if any, to carry out chemical restraint. Subsection (f) directs the Department of Family and Community Services to annually collect data on minors in state custody who receive residential psychiatric care. This data shall be submitted to the Department of Health for their annual report.

Section Three:

Amends AS 47.32.110(c) by adding additional language authorizing an officer or employee from the Department of Health, with licensing authority, to enter a psychiatric hospital for any purposes described in new subsection (d).

Section Four:

Amends AS 47.32.110 by adding subsection (d), directing the Department of Health to conduct at least two unannounced inspections of any psychiatric hospital where minors undergo evaluation or inpatient treatment. During these inspections, the department shall interview at least 50 percent of the minor patients. Staff of the psychiatric hospital may not be present during these interviews unless requested by the department to ensure safety.

Section Five:

Amends AS 47.32.200 by adding subsection (g), requiring a psychiatric hospital to send written notification of each use of seclusion or restraint on a minor, including the use of a chemical, mechanical, or physical restraint, to the Department of Health and the minor’s parent or guardian within 72 hours after the use of seclusion or restraint.

Section Six:

Amends AS 47.32.900 by adding language defining “chemical restraint” in state statute.

Section Seven:

Sets an effective date of July 1, 2026.