



Alaska State Legislature

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Senate Bill 231 Summary of Changes

Senate Health & Social Services: Version A to Version S

Sections one through four of Version A of SB 231 only applies to minors receiving care at facilities licensed as residential psychiatric treatment centers. Version S expands the application of SB 231 to all minors receiving care at a “treatment facility.” Treatment facility is defined in Version S as a hospital, clinic, institution, center, or other health care facility licensed to provide in-patient mental health evaluation or treatment to minors.

In section one, Version S of SB 231 allows for communication to be with a parent, guardian, or another adult approved by a physician and for the weekly, one-hour communication requirement to be met in cumulative sessions at no more than four occasions. The communication requirement can also be met by video or telephone communication.

In section two, Version S of SB 231 adds a requirement for the Department of Health to annually publish a report on the department’s Internet website on the aggregate total uses of seclusion and restraint on minors at each treatment facility in Alaska.

In section four, Version S of SB 231 modifies the requirement for unannounced inspections at least twice each year so that this provision only applies to treatment facilities in which a minor has spent more than three nights in the preceding year.