



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE MAXINE DIBERT

House District 31- Downtown Fairbanks

Session Contact
State Capitol, Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-2138

Interim Contact
1292 Sadler Way, Ste. 306
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 451-4347

Chair Tribal Affairs Committee
Co-Chair House Resources Committee
House Education Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee

Representative Mina asked: **Does HB 52 Section 1 duplicate established patients and parents' rights guaranteeing access to telephone communication under AS 47.30.840?**

The rights guaranteed in HB 52 are not duplicative, rather expansive. It adds the ability to have video communication and ensures a minimum amount of communication per week (at least 60') is facilitated between minor patients and their parent/guardians.

Representative Gray asked: **In section 4, during inspections the department is tasked with interviewing at least 50% of the residents. Is there a story behind that and how many children would we be interviewing?**

The 50% number stems from other state's examples. For example, Montana also stipulates that 50% of the population would be interviewed during the semiannual investigations. This ensures that enough residents in facilities are interviewed to ensure any one facility can't "Pick and Choose" the residents under their care. This is to ensure a representative sample of the populations. The number of children we'd be interviewing would be 30 children in North star facilities and 5 at API for a total of 35 Interviews twice a year (70 Interviews)

Representative Ruffridge asked: **if the inspection would also inspect out of state facilities. As well as their goal.**

My staff Mattie incorrectly stated yes. This bill in fact only relates to psychiatric hospitals in Alaska and these inspections would only occur at state-licensed institutions.

The goal of said inspections would be to ensure that the facility conditions remain appropriate and suitable for resident minors. The inspections are also meant to protect the rights of minor patients and their parent guardians, prevent abuse, and prevent misuse of chemical and physical restraints. If these inspections were to be announced in advance it is feared that institutions would be able to "cover-up" potential violations of patient rights and generally sanitize the results of these inspections. Imagine if health inspections of restaurants were announced in advance and restaurants were able to super clean facilities before inspection.