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SUMMARY OF

House Bill 73: Complex Care Residential Homes

House Bill 73 establishes a new residential license type for Complex Care Residential Homes (CCRHS) to improve Alaska's system of care for individuals with complex behavioral health needs. CCRHS will provide long-term, supportive care in a residential setting for individuals with complex behavioral, and co-occurring medical, or disability-related needs.

Alaska currently lacks the residential license type to appropriately serve these individuals, leading to placements in settings that are either too restrictive or not supportive enough. The new CCRH license type will fill a critical gap in residential care options in the state and improve health outcomes for Alaskans with complex needs.

What is a Complex Care Residential Home?

CCRHS are residential settings that provide specialized 24-hour care from a multidisciplinary team to fewer than 15 residents. CCRHS can be tailored for specific patient populations, such as individuals with severe and persistent mental illness, dementia with extreme behaviors, youth with complex behavioral health issues, and individuals with traumatic brain injuries and co-occurring behavioral health challenges.

What are the goals of the bill?

The bill aims to establish a more appropriate care setting for individuals with complex needs. CCRHS will help prevent repeated hospitalizations, extended inpatient stays at Alaska Psychiatric Institute, and reduce reliance on out-of-state placements. Additionally, CCRHS provide an alternative for individuals who might otherwise remain in hospital settings or end up in correctional settings due to the lack of appropriate placement options.

What role will the Department of Health (DOH) play?

The Department of Health will establish licensing and regulatory standards, develop eligibility criteria, define services, and explore funding mechanisms, including Medicaid reimbursement options.

Who would benefit from Complex Care Residential Homes?

Complex Care Residential Homes would benefit individuals with complex behavioral health needs. Families and caregivers would also gain from increased support and more stable care options. The bill would streamline licensing for providers and support establishment of appropriate rates for their services. Individuals served by a variety of state services, including through the Departments of Health, Family and Community Services, and Corrections will benefit from the availability of more options to better assist managing complex needs.