

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA

HB 151 Brief Explanation of Changes (Version U to Version Y)

Several substantive changes were made between version U of HB 151 (introduced on 3/1/17) and version Y (adopted by Senate HSS on 4/6/18).

- A provision extending funding for adoptions and guardianships for youth over age 18 was removed (H FIN).
- The caseload limit for new workers in their first six months was amended, such that the 12-family caseload applies months 4-6, rather than the first 12 months. An average statewide caseload limit of not more than 13 families per worker was added for experienced caseworkers (H FIN)
- Language was added making the Department immune from civil suits related to caseload and training standards (H HSS).
- A requirement to develop a recruitment and retention plan for caseworkers was added (S HSS).
- A provision was added directing the Department to seek the consent of parents in families where children are at-risk of harm to provide their contact information to local social service agencies who will reach out to them (S HSS).