



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

House Bill 52

Sectional Analysis — Version 34-LS0399/G

Section 1

AS 47.30.840 Right to privacy and personal possessions; other rights. Adds a new section to ensure a minor undergoing evaluation or inpatient treatment at a psychiatric hospital has the right, unless otherwise prohibited by law or court order, to have confidential video communication at least once each week for at least Two hours with the minor's parent or legal guardian, which will be facilitated by the psychiatric hospital.

Section 2

AS 47.32.030 Powers of the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services; delegation to municipality. Adds a new subsection (e) and (f). Subsection (e) requires the Department of Health to prepare an annual report regarding minors in psychiatric hospitals, to publish the report on the department's website, submit to the Senate Secretary and Chief Clerk of the House of Representative, and notify the Legislature of its availability. Subsection (f) requires the Department of Family and Community Services to collect data on minors who receive residential psychiatric care at psychiatric hospitals and to submit it to Department of Health for their report.

Section 3

AS 47.32.110 Right of access and inspection. Amends subsection (c) to authorize the officer or employee of a department with licensing authority to enter for any purposes described in new subsection (d).

Section 4

AS 47.32.110 Right of access and inspection. Adds a new subsection (d) to require a designated agent or employee of the Department of Health to conduct, at least twice a year, unannounced inspections of each psychiatric hospital where minors undergo evaluation or inpatient treatment in which a minor has spent more than three nights in the preceding year. At these inspections, the designated agent or employee must interview at least 50% of the patients. Staff may not be present unless invited by the Department of Health to ensure their safety.

Section 5

AS 47.32.200 Notice required of entities. Adds a new subsection (g) to require 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 6

AS 47.32.200 Chemical restraint Means a psychopharmacologic drug that is used on a patient for restraint discipline or convivence. That is not used to treat a medical symptom; or is used to treat a patient's medical symptom but is given to the patient in a higher dose.

Section 7

Sets the effective date of July 1, 2026