

SENATE BILL NO. 215

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, OLSON, KOOKESH, ELLIS, AND DAVIS

Introduced: 1/19/10

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to accept federal**
2 **prescription drug benefits or to provide comparable benefits for residents of the Alaska**
3 **Pioneers' Home."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 47.55.010(c) is amended to read:

6 (c) The department shall

7 (1) cooperate with the federal government in matters pertaining to the
8 welfare of Alaska pioneers and of veterans who reside in the homes operated under
9 this chapter, make the reports in the form and containing the information the federal
10 government from time to time desires, and accept money **and prescription drug**
11 **benefits** allotted by the federal government, its agencies, or its instrumentalities in
12 establishing, extending, and strengthening services for pioneers and veterans who
13 reside in a home operated under this chapter;

14 (2) adopt regulations necessary to conduct business and to carry out

1 the provisions of this chapter, require bonds and undertakings from persons employed
2 by a home as in its judgment are necessary, and pay the premiums on them, and
3 establish regional and local offices and the advisory groups that are necessary or
4 considered expedient to carry out or assist in carrying out a duty or authority assigned
5 to it;

6 (3) perform all executive or administrative duties necessary and
7 advisable to carry out the purpose of this chapter, including the power to make
8 contracts and to make disbursements on vouchers against appropriations for the
9 purpose of this chapter, within the limit of appropriations available;

10 (4) study the needs of pioneers and veterans of this state who reside in
11 the homes operated under this chapter and submit recommendations for new
12 regulations and proposed legislation.

13 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.55.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

14 (f) Instead of accepting federal prescription drug benefits under
15 AS 47.55.010(c)(1), the department may adopt regulations to provide comparable
16 prescription drug benefits to pioneers and veterans who reside in an Alaska Pioneers'
17 Home operated under this chapter and who are eligible for federal prescription drug
18 benefits.