

# LEGAL SERVICES

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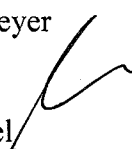
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

February 11, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Sectional Summary for CSSB 55( )  
(Work Order No. 27-LS0082\T)

**TO:** Senator Bettye Davis  
Attn: Tom Obermeyer

**FROM:** Jean M. Mischel  
Legislative Counsel 

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

**Section 1.** Adds eight rights to the list of rights of a person undergoing mental health evaluation or treatment in the state under specified provisions of state law, including involuntary commitments. The additional rights include the right to be treated with dignity and respect and the right to file a grievance under the procedures established by sec. 2 of the bill.

**Section 2.** Establishes a grievance procedure, including varying levels of review and appeal, for a person undergoing evaluation or treatment at a public or private evaluation facility or unit or at a designated treatment facility or unit. Defines "grievance" to mean a complaint concerning a patient's treatment, care, or rights at a mental health evaluation or treatment facility or unit in the state.

**Section 3.** Requires the Department of Health and Social Services to provide to mental health evaluation and treatment facilities and units in the state a standardized notice of patient rights, assistance, and grievance procedures. Also requires the person in charge of the facility or unit to provide a written copy of the notice to each patient or their representative.

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