

REPRESENTATIVE CATHY MUÑOZ

MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Kurt Olson, Chairman

Konrad Jackson, Aide

House Labor and Commerce Committee

From: Rep. Cathy Muñoz

Date: February 5, 2014

Re: Sectional analysis of HB 300, air ambulance services

Kindly note that a sectional analysis of a bill or resolution should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the measure itself. The legislation is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1. Adds a new section to Alaska Statutes (AS) 18.08, Emergency Medical Services, to require an air ambulance service provider to provide emergency medical services. A company may not deny such services to anyone on the basis that the person is not covered under an air ambulance membership agreement. Refers to definitions of "air ambulance membership agreement" and "air ambulance service provider" as provided in Section 2 of the bill.

Section 2. Adds a new chapter, AS 21.61, Air Ambulance Membership Agreements, to Alaska law that has the following provisions:

AS 21.61.100 – Allows an air ambulance service provider to offer air ambulance service agreements that may not exceed one year and must be renewed annually.

AS 21.61.105 – Requires air ambulance service providers who offer membership agreements to register with the state biennially.

AS 21.61.106 – Applies AS 21.36, Trade Practices and Fraud, and AS 21.42, The Insurance Contract, to air ambulance service providers and memberships to the extent that they do not conflict with provisions of this bill.

AS 21.61.109 – Allows the Alaska Division of Insurance to adopt regulations to implement this measure.

AS 21.61.110 – Defines air ambulance, air ambulance membership agreement, air ambulance service provider, and consideration.

Section 3. Repeals the current law that applies to air ambulance membership agreements, AS 21.87.010(b)(5) which now reads:

Chapter 21.87. Hospital and Medical Service Corporations

Sec. 21.87.010. Applicability.

- (a) This chapter applies to every individual, person, firm, corporation, association, or organization of any kind hereafter engaging or purporting to engage in the provision of all or part of a health care service as defined in AS 21.87.330, for its subscribers in exchange for periodic prepayments in identifiable amount by or as to the subscribers.
- (b) This chapter does not apply to
 - (1) insurers or fraternal benefit societies authorized to transact the kind of insurance involved under other chapters of this title;
 - (2) fraternal and other organizations exempted from AS 21.24;
 - (3) health care services provided by an employer to employees and their dependents, with or without contribution to the costs thereof by the employees, through health care service facilities owned, employed, or controlled by the employers;
 - (4) infrequent instances of prepayment by or for the patient direct to the physician or hospital for specific services thereafter rendered to the patient by the physician or hospital;
 - (5) ambulance or emergency medical services provided by a municipality, nonprofit medical service corporation, or nonprofit association if the person providing the services is certified under AS 18.08.082.

AS 18.18.082 refers to the issuance of certificates and designations.

Section 4. Provides for an immediate effective date.