

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## REPRESENTATIVE PETE HIGGINS

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### CS HB 214( )\R Sectional Analysis

**Section 1.** Adds a mental health grievance appeals to the jurisdiction of the Office of Administrative Hearings.

**Section 2.** Requires the Office of Administrative Hearings to maintain confidentiality of records in grievance appeals.

**Section 3.** Amends AS47.30.660 defining and limiting the Powers and Duties the Department can delegate.

**Section 4.** Adds 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 file a grievance, the right to have a designated representative of their choosing to act as a patient advocate and to assist in filing a grievance, the right to natural support systems, including family, friends, and help networks after being in an locked evaluation facility over three days; and the right to maintain confidentiality of their records unless they chose to release those records.

**Section 5.** Establishes a grievance procedure, including a call center, departmental review and appeal. Establishes three categories of grievances, and their respective reporting requirements. Defines "grievance", "grievant", and "unit".

**Section 6.** Requires the Department of Health and Social Services to provide a standardized notice of patients' rights, assistance, and grievance procedures to mental health evaluation and treatments facilities in the state. Also requires the person in charge of the facility to provide a written copy of the notice to each patient or their representative.

**Section 7.** Requires the Department to provide for a transition period under AS47.30.660.