

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 147

"An Act extending the reporting date for and the termination date of the Comprehensive Autism Early Diagnosis and Treatment Task Force; and providing for an effective date."

The Comprehensive Autism Early Diagnosis and Treatment Task Force was established with the passage of SB 74 during the 27th Legislature. It became law on September 25, 2012, and Task Force appointments were completed on November 2, 2012. The Task Force was scheduled to terminate on January 15, 2013, unless extended. HB 147 extends the reporting date of the Task Force, so that it may have time to do its important work.

The Task Force was established to make recommendations to the Legislature for the development of a statewide comprehensive plan to support early diagnosis and treatment of autism. These recommendations include policy options that would result in coverage to the greatest number of residents in the state and draft legislation. The Task Force is also charged with evaluating the fiscal effect of proposed policy options and an analysis of how the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is expected to affect the policies recommended by the Task Force.

HB 147 extends the Task Force to January 15, 2015, sufficient time to meet the reporting requirements and intent of the enabling legislation.

I would appreciate your support for House Bill 147.