



## SB037 Renewal of Vaccine Assessment Program

AS 18.09.200-18.09.990



### What it does

- Reauthorizes the statewide Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program in the Department of Health and Social Services, scheduled for sunset January 1, 2021.
- Eliminates a temporary phase-in period that ended in 2017.
- Restructures the Vaccine Assessment Account
- Fully funds the state Vaccine Assessment Account through assessments from healthcare payers. There is no UGF involved.

### Why it's important

- Reauthorization is needed to continue the purchase and distribution of vaccines to healthcare providers after January 1, 2021.
- Without this legislation, health care providers must front the cost of purchasing the vaccines and later seek reimbursement. This model puts a strain on many small medical practices, which are not in the best position to bear the burden of these costs for extended periods and often times not entirely reimbursed. Many providers in this situation choose not to purchase all recommended vaccines, particularly the newer, more expensive vaccines because of these financial risks.
- Not implementing the proposal may greatly impact immunization coverage rates, which are already below the national average, potentially leading to an increased burden in vaccine-preventable diseases and higher health care costs.

### How it works

- Established in 2014, the Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program is a public-private partnership making access to vaccines universal for all Alaskans at no cost to the state.
- Provides all childhood and certain adult vaccines for privately insured children and insured and uninsured adults.
- Covers vaccine costs through assessments collected from private health insurers, third party administrators, and other program participants.
- Purchases vaccines at discounted rates off a bulk contract.
- Distributes vaccine directly to healthcare providers at no charge who administer the vaccines to their patients.

### Benefits

- Alaskans gain improved access to vaccines;
- Health care providers receive state-supplied vaccines at no charge; and
- Payers benefit from cost savings through the state's bulk vaccine purchase and distribution.

## Results

- In 2018, the program covered 50% of the population
  - 44% of all children
  - 52% of all adults
- Overall vaccine costs lowered by 20%-30%
- \$11 million in vaccine savings to date
- Improvements in vaccination rates

