

## **SB124 Mental Health Facilities & Meds**

**Key takeaways of the bill and key  
improvements to the committee  
substitute**

# Key Takeaways

## **SB 124 Does:**

- ✓ Create a “no wrong door” approach to providing medical care to a person in psychiatric crisis
- ✓ Provide law enforcement with additional tools to protect public safety
- ✓ Expand the number of facilities that can conduct a 72-hour evaluation
- ✓ Add a new, less restrictive level of care
- ✓ Facilitate a faster and more appropriate response to a crisis, expand the types of first responders that can transport an individual in crisis to an appropriate crisis facility

## **SB 124 Does Not:**

- ✓ Interfere with an officer’s authority or ability to make an arrest
- ✓ Change who has the current statutory authority to administer crisis medication
- ✓ Change current statutory authority for who can order an involuntary commitment
- ✓ Reduce the individual rights of the adult or juvenile in crisis; the parents’ rights of care for their child; or existing due process rights of the individual in crisis

# (S) HSS Committee Substitute SB 124 ver. B

## Key Improvements

- 1) Adds new language for a “health officer”, newly defined in Section 22
- 2) Changes length of stay from up to 5 days to up to 7 days at a Short-term Crisis Residential Center
- 3) Adds provisions for protecting patient rights
  - ✓ 72 hrs. clock for an ex-parte hearing starts when a person (respondent) is delivered to a Crisis Stabilization or Crisis Residential Center;
  - ✓ Attorney is appointed for the respondent;
  - ✓ Court shall notify the respondent’s guardian, if any
  - ✓ Computation for seven-days at a Short-term Crisis Residential Center includes, time the respondent was receiving care at a Crisis Stabilization Center, if applicable
- 4) Adds a new section (Sec. 26) directing the Department of Health & Social Services and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to submit a report and recommendations to the Legislature regarding patient rights.
  - ✓ Patient grievance and appeal policies
  - ✓ Data collection on patient grievances, appeals and the resolution
  - ✓ Patient reports of harm, restraint and the resolution