

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:
State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: (907) 465-4968
Toll-free: 1 (800) 773-4968



Interim:
1500 West Benson Boulevard
Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: (907) 269-0117
Toll-free: 1 (800) 773-4968

Email: Senator.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov

Senator Mia Costello District K – West Anchorage

Senate Bill 216—Dementia Awareness

Sectional Analysis: Version A

"An Act relating to dementia awareness."

Sec. 1 – AS 18.09.300 Page 1, Lines 3-15 & Page 2, Lines 1-29

Is amended by adding a new section that would create a statewide dementia awareness program within the Department of Health and Social Services. This new section requires the program to secure the full benefits available to the state under the federal law 42 U.S.C. 280c-3 – 280c-5.

The department is required to create and provide dementia educational materials to health boards, physicians, hospitals, and medical clinics for distribution to the public.

The department must also develop educational programs for the court system, law enforcement, firefighters, social service providers, and emergency responders to educate those individuals on recognizing the symptoms and needs of persons with dementia.

This new section of law requires the department to maintain a list of state providers who diagnose, evaluate, or manage dementia.

The department is also required to develop and implement a public awareness campaign by coordinating with the major state and national nonprofit dementia organizations.

The public awareness campaign will implement community-based programs to educate the public about dementia and encourage the public to seek diagnosis. Additionally, the awareness campaign will publicize the scope and magnitude of dementia in the state, promote the benefits of early detection and diagnosis, increase awareness of methods to minimize the risk of developing dementia, and inform Alaskans about services available in the state to diagnose and treat dementia.