

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON
SENATE DISTRICT I

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS FOR CSSB 80(HSS) **An Act Relating to Mental Health Education**

Section 1: This section is amended by adding a new section to read LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the Board of Education and Early Development develop guidelines for instruction in mental health in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services, regional tribal health organizations, and representatives of national and state mental health organizations.

Section 2: This section amends AS 14.30.360(a) by removing the word "physical" when referencing instruction for health education and adding "mental health" to the list of curriculum items each district includes in their health education programs.

Section 3: This section amends AS 14.30.360(b) by clarifying that health guidelines developed by the Board of Education and Early Development must provide standards for instruction in mental health and be developed in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services and representatives of national and state mental health organizations.

Section 4: This section amends AS 14.30.360 by adding a new subsection to read: (e) A district may not instruct a student in mental health as part of a program in health education under (a) of this section without informed consent from the student's parent or guardian. The district shall inform the child's parent or guardian, in the native language of the parent or guardian, of the time, date, and content of the mental health instruction, that consent is voluntary, and that consent may be revoked at any time. Before instructing a student in mental health, the district shall obtain written consent from the parent or guardian indicating that the parent or guardian understands and agrees to the student's participation in the mental health instruction.

Section 5: This section amends the uncodified law of the State of Alaska by adding a new section to read “the state Board of Education and Early Development shall develop the mental health guidelines required by AS 14.30.360(b), as amended by sec. 3 of this Act, within two years after the effective day of this Act.