

HB60 OVERVIEW

Short Title: DFCS/DOH: DUTIES/LICENSING/INFO; RUNAWAYS

Version: "S As Amended"

Working Title: EO 121 Clean Up Bill

Sponsor: Rules Committee by Request of the Governor

Summary: HB60 makes make minor statutory changes to support the continued successful implementation of Executive Order 121 (EO 121).

Background: Executive Order 121 (EO121) to reorganize the Department of Health and Social Services into two departments was introduced on the first day of the 2022 legislative session. The Alaska Constitution Article III, Section 23 authorizes the governor to make changes to the organization of the executive branch.

Executive Orders cannot make substantive changes to programs and may not be amended once introduced. Executive Orders become law 60 days after introduction unless a majority of the Legislature disapproves the EO in joint session. EO121 became law on March 21, 2022 and went into effect on July 1, 2022.

The bill accomplishes the following:

- Ensures that the new Department of Health and Department of Family and Community Services share information, including confidential protected health information, as necessary to administer programs and serve Alaskans. The necessity of including this provision was identified during consideration of EO121.
- Adds the Commissioner of the Department of Family and Community Services to the list of advisors to Alaska Mental Health Trust board. Inclusion of the DFCS commissioner to this role was identified during drafting of EO121 but was removed to avoid making "substantive" changes to programs via the executive order.
- Clarifies statute related to the licensing duties assigned to the former Department of Health and Social Services licensing related to runaway shelters and foster homes. These citations were incorrectly assigned during the drafting of EO 121.
- Adds the Department of Family and Community Services to in the definition of "department" for purposes of AS 18.65.340. Amending this definition was missed during the drafting of EO 121.
- The bill was amended on the floor of the House of Representatives to require facilities licensed as runaway shelters to make reports of suspected human and sex trafficking to a law enforcement agency and provide information to minors about human and sex trafficking and the services available to victims.

For more information on HB 60 please contact:

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