

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim – May-December:
1292 Sadler Way Rm. 323
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-452-1088



Session – January-April:
State Capitol Rm 513
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-3004

Representative Will Stapp

District 32: East Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Badger

Rep.Will.Stapp@akleg.gov

Sponsor Statement for HB No. 260

The Division of Public Assistance (DPA) is responsible for administering the Catastrophic Illness and Chronic or Acute Medical Conditions program. In the last three fiscal years, (FY21, FY22, FY23) The DPA has collectively processed over 24,000 applications and has encountered two qualifying applicants that did receive assistance within the year of 2021.

The program began in 1986. Recipients were mainly those too young for Medicare and with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid. Those who were either not covered by health insurance or whose insurance was inadequate to brace a catastrophic illness event without endangering their financial resources, subsistence and essential assets. Due to the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act put into effect within Alaska in late 2015, the increase in coverage for Medicaid recipients grew nearly 145,000 people.

The program has since become obsolete, and without it, the division would alternatively have increased time to process applications for other programs within their division to prevent backlogs in assistance funding. House Bill 260's primary objective is to relieve Alaska's DPA of the cumbersome processing of applications for the program by repealing it.

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