

**HOUSE BILL NO. 62**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE KELLY**

**Introduced: 1/13/97**

**Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to child care provided by recipients of assistance under the**  
2 **Alaska temporary assistance program; and providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 47.27.025 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (f) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, the department shall, for  
6 purposes of determining the continued eligibility of a family for assistance, disregard  
7 all income received by the family from the provision of home care to the children of  
8 other recipients of assistance under this chapter if the home care is provided in order  
9 to enable the other recipients to participate in work activities and the home care  
10 commenced after the care-giving family began receiving assistance under this chapter.  
11 A family whose income is disregarded under this subsection remains subject to the 60-  
12 month time limit in AS 47.27.015(a)(1) and to laws governing the provision of child  
13 care.

14 **\* Sec. 2.** AS 47.27.030 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

1 (d) For a family that includes two adults who are not exempt from work  
 2 participation requirements under AS 47.27.035(c)(1) - (4), the family's self-sufficiency  
 3 plan may, at the family's option, include an agreement that one of the adults will  
 4 complete child care training determined appropriate by the department and, thereafter,  
 5 while receiving assistance under this chapter or until the self-sufficiency plan is  
 6 amended, will provide at least 30 hours a week of uncompensated home care for at  
 7 least three minors who are children of other recipients of assistance under this chapter  
 8 so that the minors' caretakers are able to participate in work activities. To the extent  
 9 that this provision of child care does not increase the self-sufficiency of the caregiver's  
 10 family, the requirement of this section that the plan be designed to lead to self-  
 11 sufficiency is waived. However, all other provisions of this chapter that are applicable  
 12 to self-sufficiency plans, including sanctions under AS 47.27.085(a), are applicable to  
 13 a plan that includes a child care provision as described in this subsection.

14 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 47.27.035(c) is amended to read:

15 (c) A parent or caretaker may be exempt from work participation requirements  
 16 in the family self-sufficiency plan if

17 (1) the parent or caretaker is providing home care for a child who is  
 18 experiencing a disability or a related, disabled person who requires 24-hour care;

19 (2) the parent or caretaker establishes an inability to participate for  
 20 medical reasons supported by documentation from a physician or other licensed  
 21 medical professional;

22 (3) the participation would impose an unreasonable hardship on the  
 23 family; [OR]

24 (4) there is a dependent child in the home that has not yet attained six  
 25 years of age and the parent or caretaker demonstrates an inability to obtain needed  
 26 child care because appropriate child care is not available; or

27 (5) the self-sufficiency plan includes a child care provision as  
 28 described under AS 47.27.030(d) and the parent or caretaker is actually attending  
 29 the training or providing the care agreed to.

30 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 47.27.060 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 47.27.060. Job and child care development.** The department may

1 establish cooperative agreements with the Department of Labor, Department of  
 2 Community and Regional Affairs, Department of Education, and Department of  
 3 Commerce and Economic Development, and with other public or private sector  
 4 organizations for the purpose of developing job, training, **child care**, and educational  
 5 opportunities for families eligible for assistance under this chapter.

6 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 47.27.060 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 (b) The department shall determine whether it is necessary to provide child  
 8 care training to a family member who is providing or intends to provide child care  
 9 under AS 47.27.025(f) or 47.27.030(d) and shall provide for training opportunities for  
 10 that family member, as appropriate. The department shall include, as an element of  
 11 the training opportunity provided under this subsection, education and skills  
 12 development that may enable the family member to provide competent child care as  
 13 a profit-making activity on a long-term basis.

14 \* **Sec. 6.** APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL APPROVAL. (a) If the Department of Health  
 15 and Social Services determines that federal approval is necessary for uncompensated child care  
 16 provided under AS 47.27.030(d), as added by sec. 2 of this Act, to be considered an activity  
 17 that will meet the federal work participation requirements for recipients of assistance under  
 18 the Alaska temporary assistance program, the department shall apply for a waiver or take  
 19 whatever other action is necessary to seek federal approval.

20 (b) With or without federal approval under (a) of this section, it is the legislature's  
 21 intent that the department implement this Act because it is the legislature's judgment that this  
 22 Act will decrease costs to the state of providing child care under AS 47.27.035(d)(1) and  
 23 increase the ability of welfare recipients to participate in federally approved work activities  
 24 because low-cost care will be provided to their children.

25 \* **Sec. 7.** Section 6(a) of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

26 \* **Sec. 8.** (a) Except as provided in sec. 7 of this Act, this Act takes effect on the earlier  
 27 of

28 (1) July 1, 1997; or

29 (2) the date the state's plan submitted to implement AS 47.27 is considered  
 30 complete by the federal government.

31 (b) The commissioner of health and social services shall notify the revisor of statutes

**1** of the date described in (a)(2) of this section if it is earlier than July 1, 1997.