

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 297(RLS)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/6/98

Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): SENATOR ELLIS

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to breast-feeding."

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

3 \* **Section 1.** LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

4 (1) the medical profession in the United States recommends that children from  
5 birth to the age of one year should be breast-fed unless, under particular circumstances, it is  
6 medically inadvisable;

7 (2) in addition to the benefit of improving bonding between mothers and their  
8 babies, breast-feeding offers better nutrition, digestion, and immunity for babies than does  
9 formula-feeding, and it may increase the intelligence quotient of a child;

10 (3) babies who are breast-fed have lower rates of death, meningitis, childhood  
11 leukemia and other cancers, diabetes, respiratory illnesses, bacterial and viral infections,  
12 diarrheal diseases, otitis media, allergies, obesity, and developmental delays; and

13 (4) any promotion of family values should encourage public acceptance of this  
14 most basic act of nurture between a mother and her baby, and a mother should not be made  
15 to feel incriminated or socially ostracized for breast-feeding her child.

1 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 01.10.060 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

2 (b) In the laws of the state, "lewd conduct," "lewd touching," "immoral  
3 conduct," "indecent conduct," and similar terms do not include the act of a woman  
4 breast-feeding a child in a public or private location where the woman and child are  
5 otherwise authorized to be. Nothing in this subsection may be construed to authorize  
6 an act that is an offense under AS 11.61.123.

7 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 44.83.990(4) is amended to read:

8 (4) "person" includes a public agency in addition to the entities set out  
9 in AS 01.10.060(a)(8) [AS 01.10.060(8)];