

HOUSE BILL NO. 121

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE BUNDE

Introduced: 3/3/99

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to patients' rights under a health care insurance plan or**
2 **contract providing coverage for dental care, and prohibiting certain practices by**
3 **health care insurers relating to dental care."**

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

5 * **Section 1.** SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Alaska Dental Care Bill of
6 Rights.

7 * **Sec. 2.** AS 21.42 is amended by adding a new section to read:

8 **Sec 21.42.390. Requirements relating to dental care coverage provisions.**

9 (a) A health care insurer who provides coverage for dental care may not include in
10 the health care insurance plan or contract a provision that

11 (1) prohibits a covered person from obtaining dental care services from
12 a dentist of the person's choice, including a specialist;

13 (2) restricts a covered person's right to receive full information from
14 the person's dentist regarding the care or treatment options that the dentist believes are

1 in the best interests of the person.

2 (b) A health care insurance plan or contract that provides coverage for dental
3 services that allows the health care insurer to review a treatment plan or conduct a
4 utilization review must contain a provision that a treatment plan review or utilization
5 review relating to dental care for a covered person receiving treatment in this state
6 must be conducted by a dentist.

7 (c) A health care insurer may not

8 (1) directly or indirectly reimburse a covered person at a different rate
9 because of the person's choice of a dentist;

10 (2) deny coverage, cancel a health care insurance plan or contract, or
11 otherwise take action against a covered person or a dentist because the person has
12 asserted a right described in this section.

13 (d) A covered person may bring a civil action against a health care insurer to
14 enforce the person's rights under this section.

15 (e) In this section, "dentist" means a person licensed in this state to practice
16 dentistry.