

HOUSE BILL NO. 269

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES THERRIAULT, James

Introduced: 1/10/00

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

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act related to the videotaping of interviews with children who are alleged
2 to have been abused or neglected."

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

4 * Section 1. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new
5 section to read:

6 VIDEOTAPING PILOT PROJECT. (a) Not later than January 1, 2001, the
7 Department of Health and Social Services shall select one municipality and, in that
8 municipality, shall establish a pilot project to study the use of videotaping of interviews with
9 children who are alleged to have been abused or neglected. In the municipality selected,
10 unless it is determined that an interview is immediately necessary because of exigent
11 circumstances or that, due to extraordinary circumstances, videotaping equipment is
12 unavailable or is inoperable, an employee of the Department of Health and Social Services,
13 the Department of Law, the Department of Public Safety, or a municipal law enforcement
14 agency may not interview a child who is alleged to have been abused or neglected unless the

1 interview is videotaped. The Department of Health and Social Services shall coordinate the
2 purchase of videotape equipment and the distribution of that equipment to state and municipal
3 officials who may be expected to interview children who are alleged to have been abused or
4 neglected. The pilot project shall continue for not less than 18 months. The Department of
5 Health and Social Services shall prepare a written interim report for submission to the Twenty-
6 Second Alaska State Legislature not later than the 10th day of the second regular session, and
7 a final report for submission to the Twenty-Third Alaska State Legislature not later than the
8 10th day of the first regular session. The report must discuss the pilot project, problems
9 encountered, benefits discovered, and other information the Department of Health and Social
10 Services determines is relevant to a determination of whether a videotaping requirement such
11 as that imposed for the pilot project should be implemented for the entire state.

12 (b) In selecting the municipality under (a) of this section, the municipality must have
13 a population, based upon the most recent population statistics available from the Department
14 of Community and Economic Development, of not less than 40,000 and not more than
15 150,000.

16 (c) The failure to videotape an interview of a child as required under (a) of this
17 section does not affect the admissibility of the interview or the authority or ability of a state
18 or municipal law enforcement or prosecution agency to use the interview or information
19 obtained from it.

20 * **Sec. 2.** This Act is repealed January 31, 2003.