

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/19/00
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Alaska Health Care Commission.

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 WHEREAS health insurance costs and health care costs continue to soar, and a
4 growing number of Alaskans are having difficulty affording health insurance or health care
5 services; and

6 WHEREAS many Alaskans live outside the urban centers where most health care
7 providers are located; and

8 WHEREAS there is a drain on the Alaska economy because nearly 40 percent of
9 Alaska health care resources are sent out of state in the form of payments for insurance
10 premiums, health care, and hospital services; and

11 WHEREAS Alaskans lack the information they need to evaluate the fair market value
12 of health care services; and

13 WHEREAS there is a growing disparity between Medicaid, insurance, and cash
14 customer rates charged by health care providers;

15 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature establishes the Alaska Health
16 Care Commission to evaluate and recommend to the Governor, the legislature, and the
17 residents of Alaska options for improvement of Alaska's health care delivery system; and be

1 it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Health Care Commission shall consist of 12
3 voting members who are Alaska residents, appointed as follows:

4 (1) four members appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom shall
5 be a member of the majority caucus, one of whom shall be a member of a minority caucus,
6 one of whom shall be a representative of the insurance industry, and one of whom shall be
7 a representative of the health care provider industry;

8 (2) four members appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom shall
9 be a member of the majority caucus, and one of whom shall be a member of a minority
10 caucus, one of whom shall be a representative of Alaska employers, and one of whom shall
11 be a representative of the health care provider industry;

12 (3) four members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall represent the
13 interests of the state's public health programs, one of whom shall represent federal health
14 programs administered in the state, and two of whom shall be public members who represent
15 Alaska health care consumers; and be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following three persons may serve on the Alaska
17 Health Care Commission as nonvoting members: the commissioners of health and social
18 services, administration, and community and economic development, or their designees; and
19 be it

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the public members of the Alaska Health Care
21 Commission shall serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses
22 authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Health Care Commission shall select a chair
24 and vice-chair from among its members, and the chair shall vote only to break a tie; the
25 commission shall meet as frequently as the commission determines necessary, and the
26 commission may meet and vote by teleconference; and the commission and its members are
27 entitled to use the services, supplies, equipment, and staff support of the legislative
28 information offices of the Legislative Affairs Agency during regular business hours; and be
29 it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Health Care Commission may, with the prior
31 approval of the legislative council, submit applications to the federal government for grants

1 for the activities of the commission; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Health Care Commission shall prepare a
3 report that includes plans and evaluation of

4 (1) the option of creating a publicly or privately held trust with administrative
5 powers to oversee an Alaska health care delivery system;

6 (2) options to enable creation of health cooperatives;

7 (3) options to enable creation of medical savings accounts; and

8 (4) other potential non-insurance alternatives for improving the accessibility
9 and affordability of health care for Alaskans; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Health Care Commission shall present a
11 report to the Governor and the legislature by January 1, 2001, that

12 (1) outlines the options being evaluated;

13 (2) describes an action plan, including a public participation process, outlining
14 a detailed work schedule for preparation of the final report; and

15 (3) may include a request for an extension of the commission until January 30,
16 2002; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Health Care Commission may propose
18 legislation to extend the final report date; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Health Care Commission is authorized to
20 begin work immediately upon the appointment of its full membership or by June 15, 2000,
21 whichever date is earlier, and that the Alaska Health Care Commission is terminated on
22 January 8, 2001, unless extended under other legislation.