

**SENATE BILL NO. 198**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS HALFORD, Lincoln, Olson, Hoffman, Ward, Green, Ellis

Introduced: 4/20/01

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act establishing the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council; and providing for an**  
2 **effective date."**

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

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 39.25.120(c) is amended to read:

5 (c) The following positions in the state service constitute the partially exempt  
6 service:

7 (1) deputy and assistant commissioners of the principal departments of  
8 the executive branch, including the assistant adjutant general of the Department of  
9 Military and Veterans' Affairs;

10 (2) the directors of the major divisions of the principal departments of  
11 the executive branch and the regional directors of the Department of Transportation  
12 and Public Facilities;

13 (3) attorney members of the staff of the Department of Law, of the  
14 public defender agency, and of the office of public advocacy in the Department of

1 Administration;

2 (4) one private secretary for each head of a principal department in the  
3 executive branch;

4 (5) employees of councils, boards, or commissions established by  
5 statute in the Office of the Governor or the office of the lieutenant governor, unless a  
6 different classification is provided by statute;

7 (6) not more than two special assistants to the commissioner of each of  
8 the principal departments of the executive branch, but the number may be increased if  
9 the partially exempt service is extended under AS 39.25.130 to include the additional  
10 special assistants;

11 (7) the principal executive officer of the following boards, councils, or  
12 commissions:

13 (A) Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission;

14 (B) Professional Teaching Practices Commission;

15 (C) Parole Board;

16 (D) Board of Nursing;

17 (E) Real Estate Commission;

18 (F) Alaska Royalty Oil and Gas Development Advisory Board;

19 (G) Alaska State Council on the Arts;

20 (H) Alaska Police Standards Council;

21 (I) Alaska Commission on Aging;

22 (J) Alaska Mental Health Board;

23 (K) State Medical Board;

24 (L) Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education;

25 (M) Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse;

26 **(N) Statewide Suicide Prevention Council;**

27 (8) Alaska Pioneers' Home managers;

28 (9) hearing examiners in the Department of Revenue;

29 (10) the comptroller in the division of treasury, Department of  
30 Revenue;

31 (11) airport managers in the Department of Transportation and Public

1 Facilities employed at the Anchorage and Fairbanks International Airports;

2 (12) the deputy director of the division of insurance in the Department  
3 of Community and Economic Development;

4 (13) the executive director and staff of the Alaska Public Offices  
5 Commission;

6 (14) the rehabilitation administrator of the Workers' Compensation  
7 Board;

8 (15) guards employed by the Department of Public Safety for  
9 emergencies;

10 (16) marine pilot coordinator of the Board of Marine Pilots;

11 (17) employees of the unit established under AS 44.37.050;

12 (18) guards employed by the Department of Corrections, other than in  
13 state correctional facilities, to carry out the responsibility of the commissioner of  
14 Corrections under AS 33.30.071(b);

15 (19) hearing officers and administrative law judges of the Regulatory  
16 Commission of Alaska.

17 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 44.29 is amended by adding new sections to read:

18 **Article 4. Statewide Suicide Prevention Council.**

19 **Sec. 44.29.300. Council established.** There is established in the Department  
20 of Health and Social Services the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council, consisting of  
21 14 members, as follows:

22 (1) two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the  
23 senate, one of whom shall be a member of the majority and one of whom shall be a  
24 member of the minority;

25 (2) two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the  
26 speaker of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the  
27 majority and one of whom shall be a member of the minority;

28 (3) 10 members appointed by the governor, as follows:

29 (A) two persons who are employed in the executive branch of  
30 state government;

31 (B) one member of the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and

1 Drug Abuse;

2 (C) one member of the Alaska Mental Health Board;

3 (D) one person recommended by the Alaska Federation of  
4 Natives, Inc.;

5 (E) one person who is a counselor in a secondary school;

6 (F) one adult who is active in a statewide youth organization;

7 (G) one person who has experienced the death by suicide of a  
8 member of the person's family;

9 (H) one person who resides in a rural community in the state  
10 that is not connected by road or the Alaska marine highway to the main road  
11 system of the state; and

12 (I) one person who is under the age of 18.

13 **Sec. 44.29.310. Term of office.** (a) The governor shall appoint the members  
14 of the council under AS 44.29.300(3)(D) - (I) for staggered terms of four years.

15 (b) The governor shall fill a vacancy of a member on the council appointed  
16 under AS 44.29.300(3)(D) - (I) by appointment for the unexpired part of the vacated  
17 term.

18 (c) Members of the council serve at the pleasure of the governor. The  
19 governor shall replace a member who, by poor attendance or lack of contribution to  
20 the council's work, demonstrates ineffectiveness as a member. In this subsection,  
21 "poor attendance" means the failure to attend three or more consecutive meetings.

22 **Sec. 44.29.320. Compensation, per diem, and expenses.** The members of  
23 the council who are not state employees are not entitled to compensation for service  
24 on the council, but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards  
25 and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

26 **Sec. 44.29.330. Officers and staff.** (a) The council, by a majority of its  
27 membership, shall annually elect a presiding officer and other officers it considers  
28 necessary from among its membership.

29 (b) The council may employ a coordinator to assist the council. The  
30 coordinator is in the partially exempt service. The coordinator shall be directly  
31 responsible to the council in the performance of the coordinator's duties.

1           **Sec. 44.29.340. Meetings.** The council may meet, by teleconference or  
2 otherwise, as often as considered necessary by the presiding officer of the council.

3           **Sec. 44.29.350. Duties.** The council shall serve in an advisory capacity to the  
4 legislature and the governor with respect to what actions can and should be taken to

5                   (1) improve health and wellness throughout the state by reducing  
6 suicide and its effect on individuals, families, and communities;

7                   (2) broaden the public's awareness of suicide and the risk factors  
8 related to suicide;

9                   (3) enhance suicide prevention services and programs throughout the  
10 state;

11                   (4) develop healthy communities through comprehensive,  
12 collaborative, community-based approaches;

13                   (5) develop and implement a statewide suicide prevention plan;

14                   (6) strengthen existing and build new partnerships between public and  
15 private entities that will advance suicide prevention efforts in the state.

16           **Sec. 44.29.360. Annual report.** The council shall annually report its findings  
17 and recommendations in a report to the governor, the president of the senate, and the  
18 speaker of the house of representatives by March 1 of each year.

19           **Sec. 44.29.390. Definition.** In AS 44.29.300 - 44.29.390, "council" means the  
20 Statewide Suicide Prevention Council established under AS 44.29.300.

21   \* **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
22 read:

23           TRANSITIONAL PROVISION. The Statewide Suicide Prevention Council  
24 established under sec. 2 of this Act may begin its work June 1, 2001, or upon appointment of  
25 its full membership, whichever is earlier.

26   \* **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).