

HOUSE BILL NO. 244

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE BERKOWITZ

Introduced: 4/1/05

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Health Court Task Force; and providing for an effective date."**

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

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

5 HEALTH COURT TASK FORCE. (a) There is established in the legislative branch
6 of state government the Health Court Task Force. The taskforce shall consist of 10 members
7 as follows:

8 (1) one state senator appointed from the majority caucus by the president of
9 the senate;

10 (2) one state representative appointed from the majority caucus by the speaker
11 of the house of representatives;

12 (3) one member, either a state senator or state representative, appointed by the
13 minority leaders of the senate and the house of representatives;

14 (4) one member from the executive branch appointed by the governor;

15 (5) one member from the Department of Law appointed by the governor;

1 (6) one member of the judicial branch appointed by the chief justice of the
2 supreme court;

3 (7) the following members appointed jointly by the president of the senate, the
4 speaker of the house of representatives, and the minority leaders of the senate and house of
5 representatives:

6 (A) one member representing the health insurance industry;

7 (B) one member representing the medical community in the state;

8 (C) one member representing health care consumer groups; and

9 (D) one attorney member.

10 (b) The members of the task force shall select a chair from among the membership.
11 The staff of the members who are legislators shall serve as staff to the task force.

12 (c) The task force shall

13 (1) investigate health courts as a way to improve the quality and availability of
14 health care and reduce costs to providers and consumers;

15 (2) obtain expert advice and information regarding the establishment of state
16 health courts;

17 (3) identify state and federal measures necessary to create a state health court
18 system; and

19 (4) develop a strategy for creating and operating a state health court system.

20 (d) The task force shall meet as frequently as its members determine necessary to
21 perform its work. The task force may meet and vote by teleconference.

22 (e) The members of the task force identified in (a)(4), (5), (6), and (7) of this section
23 are not eligible for compensation, per diem, or travel expenses.

24 (f) The task force shall, before January 31, 2006, submit a report to the legislature and
25 the governor that provides the findings and recommendations of the task force regarding the
26 establishment of a state health court system.

27 * **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this Act is repealed February 1, 2006.

28 * **Sec. 3.** The Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).