

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 79(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/18/05

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to coverage for adult dental services under Medicaid; and providing**
2 **for an effective date."**

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 section
5 to read:

6 PURPOSE; INTENT. (a) The purpose of this Act is to increase adult dental care
7 services for an eligible recipient of Medicaid under AS 47.07 to ensure that services critical to
8 a recipient are implemented first, while controlling the overall growth of the costs of the
9 increase in services.

10 (b) It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services
11 implement the increase in adult dental care services authorized by this Act through the
12 adoption of regulations consistent with the department's obligation to contain the costs of the
13 increased services in order to provide the services within appropriation limits. It is further the
14 intent of the legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services implement

1 mechanisms to contain costs, which may include establishing a maximum amount of benefits
 2 for each eligible recipient in a fiscal year for the services and specifying the scope of the
 3 services.

4 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 47.07.067. Payment for adult dental services.** (a) The department shall
 6 pay for adult dental services provided under AS 47.07.030(b) and under regulations
 7 adopted by the commissioner in conformity with applicable federal requirements and
 8 this chapter. Regulations adopted under this section may include the following:

9 (1) a maximum amount of benefits for adult dental services for each
 10 eligible recipient in a fiscal year; this paragraph does not apply to minimum treatment
 11 for the immediate relief of pain and acute infection provided by a licensed dentist; and

12 (2) specification of the scope of adult dental services.

13 (b) As used in this section, "minimum treatment" means the application or
 14 prescription of a medication or material deemed necessary by the dentist for the
 15 palliative treatment of pain or for the reduction of the spread of infection.

16 * **Sec. 3.** AS 47.07.900(1) is repealed.

17 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
 18 read:

19 **TRANSITION: REGULATIONS.** The Department of Health and Social Services
 20 may proceed to adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The
 21 regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the
 22 effective date of the statutory changes.

23 * **Sec. 5.** Section 4 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

24 * **Sec. 6.** Except as provided in sec. 5 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2005.