

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 77(L&C)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/1/07

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES KERTTULA AND DOLL, Lynn

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to marriage brokers and advertisers and to dating and social referral**  
2 **services."**

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

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 08.02 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 08.02.100. Marriage brokers and advertisers; dating and social**  
6 **referral services; criminal justice information.** (a) Except as provided in (f) of this  
7 section, a person may not provide or advertise services as a marriage broker in the  
8 state unless the person

9 (1) requires each client to provide in writing, certified under penalty of  
10 perjury,

11 (A) a complete criminal justice information report from each  
12 state in which the client has resided since reaching 18 years of age;

13 (B) a complete list of restraining orders and civil protective  
14 orders issued by any court that involve the client;

1 (C) a complete marital history;  
 2 (2) provides information to each recruit in the recruit's native language  
 3 that explains

4 (A) the requirements and information provided under (1) of this  
 5 subsection, with a notice that the information has not been verified for  
 6 accuracy;

7 (B) the fiance or fiancée visa application process and marriage-  
 8 based immigration status under federal law;

9 (C) that domestic violence is illegal in the United States and the  
 10 penalties that attach under state and federal law;

11 (D) that assistance is available to victims of domestic violence,  
 12 including protective orders and shelter services;

13 (E) the emergency and assistance procedures, including the 911  
 14 system, the national domestic violence hotline, the national sexual assault  
 15 hotline, and the state assistance telephone numbers; and

16 (F) the rights of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault,  
 17 human trafficking, and related crimes in the United States and in the state,  
 18 including the right to petition for residency status independent of, and without  
 19 the knowledge, consent, or cooperation of, the spouse.

20 (b) The criminal justice information required under (a)(1) of this section for a  
 21 client that has resided in the state must be obtained by submitting the client's  
 22 fingerprints and the required fees under AS 12.62.160 to the Department of Public  
 23 Safety for criminal justice information and, if available, a national criminal history  
 24 record check under AS 12.62.400.

25 (c) The marital history report required under (a)(1) of this section must include  
 26 whether the client

27 (1) is currently married;

28 (2) has previously been married and, if so,

29 (A) how many times;

30 (B) how each marriage was terminated;

31 (C) when each marriage was terminated; and

1                   (3) has previously sponsored a foreign national for purposes of  
2 marriage or engagement to be married.

3                   (d) The Department of Law shall enforce this section and may institute a civil  
4 action against a person who violates this section.

5                   (e) A person who violates the requirements of this section is subject to a civil  
6 penalty not to exceed \$20,000 for each violation. A penalty collected under this  
7 section shall be deposited in the general fund and accounted for separately. The  
8 legislature may appropriate money collected under this section to the crime victim  
9 compensation fund created in AS 18.67.162 to be used to compensate victims of  
10 violent crime under AS 18.67. In determining the amount of the civil penalty, the court  
11 shall consider

12                               (1) any previous violation of AS 08.02.100;

13                               (2) the seriousness of the violation, including the nature,  
14 circumstances, extent, and consequences of the violation;

15                               (3) any evidence of good faith on the part of the marriage broker or  
16 advertiser; and

17                               (4) the potential for deterrence.

18                   (f) Nothing in this section prohibits a person or organization from engaging in  
19 traditional matchmaking of a cultural or religious nature that is otherwise consistent  
20 with international, federal, state, and local laws.

21                   (g) In this section,

22                               (1) "client" means a person who resides in this state and contracts with  
23 or otherwise agrees to employ a marriage broker or advertiser for services related to  
24 marriage, engagement, dating, or another social referral;

25                               (2) "marriage broker or advertiser" means a person who engages by  
26 Internet or other electronic means, in writing, or in person, in negotiating with,  
27 advertising to, publicizing to, or contracting with a state resident, for services related  
28 to marriage, engagement, dating, or another social referral with a person who resides  
29 outside of the United States;

30                               (3) "recruit" means a person who resides outside of the United States  
31 and who is contacted by or who contacts a marriage broker or advertiser for the

1           purpose of providing or acquiring marriage, engagement, dating, or another social  
2           referral service.

3       \* **Sec. 2.** AS 12.62.400 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

4                               (15) a position involving marriage brokering or advertising or dating or  
5           social referral services under AS 08.02.100.