SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 215(FIN) am S

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Amended: 5/8/07
Offered: 5/4/07

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES FAIRCLOUGH, Stoltze, Meyer, Nelson, Kerttula, Joule, Lynn, Salmon, Gatto, Johnson, Roses, Dahlstrom, Seaton, Johansen, LeDoux

SENATORS Dyson, McGuire, Davis

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to the establishment of a task force to review the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault."

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

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

FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

(1) for the past decade, Alaska has ranked among the top five states in the nation in per capita domestic violence rates;

(2) in 2002, 2003, and 2004, Alaska had the dishonorable distinction of having the highest rate of women murdered by men, and this rate was more than double the rate at which women were murdered by men in the state with the second highest rate;

(3) for the last 27 years, Alaska has ranked among the top five states in the nation for rape and sexual assault;

(4) the Twelfth Alaska State Legislature established the Council on Domestic

Violence and Sexual Assault in 1981 and placed it in the Department of Public Safety, with a mission to reduce the causes and incidence of interpersonal violence in the state;

(5) the council collects valuable state-specific data on domestic violence and sexual assault;

(6) the council currently serves the state by planning and coordinating services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault;

(7) the council is the recipient of both state and federal funds and serves as the conduit for these funds to community-based victims' services, batterers' programs, and prison-based batterers' programs; and

(8) staff turnover, reports on grant management, office location, division location, selection of council members, and coordination with other state agencies have been the subject of questions.

*** Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TASK FORCE TO REVIEW COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT. (a) There is established in the legislative branch of state government the Task Force to Review the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The task force is composed of the following 15 members:

(1) three members appointed by the president of the senate from among the members of the senate;

(2) three members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives from among the members of the house of representatives;

(3) two members appointed by the governor who are citizens involved with, or who have a history of involvement in, the delivery of services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, one of whom shall be from a community with a population of less than 2,500 and one of whom shall be from a community with a population of 2,500 or more;

(4) one member appointed by the governor from each of the following:

(A) the Department of Law;

(B) the Department of Corrections;

(C) the Department of Education and Early Development;

(D) the Department of Health and Social Services; and

(E) the Department of Public Safety;

(5) the director of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault serving ex officio; and

(6) the director of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault serving ex officio.

(b) The members of the task force shall select a chair from among the members who shall serve as a facilitator and nonvoting member except in the case of a tie vote.

(c) The task force shall consider and develop recommendations that address

(1) the council's relationship and consultation with other state agencies;

(2) the statutory responsibilities and priorities of the council;

(3) the appointment process for members of the council;

(4) the location of the council within the state administrative structure;

(5) the council's compliance with grant management requirements; and

(6) the council's mission, and the focus of the council's mission on prevention, intervention, crisis response, and perpetrator accountability.

(d) The task force shall examine "Preventing Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence and Child Maltreatment," which is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Internet website, for best practices and shall make recommendations about those practices that should be implemented by the council.

(e) The task force shall meet a minimum of at least once in the following cities: Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and a rural community of the state.

(f) Members of the task force shall be entitled to the per diem and travel expenses allowed under AS 39.20.180. Each department shall pay the per diem and travel expenses for its representative or representatives to the task force. The Department of Public Safety shall pay the per diem and travel expenses for the two public members of the task force and the director of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

(g) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house shall

(1) jointly appoint a staff member to provide administrative support; and

(2) provide other resources, as necessary, to the task force.

(h) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and shall make recommendations regarding the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to the

legislature by March 1, 2008.

*** Sec. 3.** This Act is repealed on April 16, 2008.