

SENATE BILL NO. 17

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR DAVIS

Introduced: 1/16/07

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Labor and Commerce, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to tuition waivers for a child who was in foster care; relating to**
2 **eligibility for foster care and subsidy payments for a hard-to-place child; and changing**
3 **the definition of 'child' to include persons under 23 years of age in foster care."**

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

5 * **Section 1.** AS 14.43 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Article 3A. Free Tuition for a Person Who Was in Foster Care.**

7 **Sec. 14.43.086. Free tuition and fees for a person who was in foster care.** A
8 person who was in the custody of the state under AS 47.10 or AS 47.14 and placed in
9 foster care is entitled to a waiver of undergraduate tuition and fees if the person enrolls
10 as a student in good standing in a state-supported educational institution in this state.

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 25.23.210 is amended to read:

12 **Sec. 25.23.210. Amount and duration of subsidy payments.** The monthly
13 payment and the length of time for which a subsidy for a hard-to-place child is granted
14 are left to the discretion of the commissioner and may vary from a small monthly sum

1 to an amount not exceeding the existing rate for foster care until the child reaches **23**
 2 **years of age** [THE AGE OF MAJORITY], if the need continues to exist. Subsidies
 3 shall be paid from the same public funds and in the same manner as foster care
 4 payments. On request of the person caring for the child, the department shall review
 5 whether the amount of the subsidy is appropriate.

6 * **Sec. 3.** AS 47.10.990(3) is amended to read:

7 (3) "child" means a person **who is**

8 **(A)** under 18 years of age;

9 **(B)** [AND A PERSON] 19 years of age if that person was
 10 under 18 years of age at the time that a proceeding under this chapter was
 11 commenced; **and**

12 **(C) under 23 years of age if that person is living in a foster**
 13 **home;**

14 * **Sec. 4.** AS 47.14.990 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

15 (13) "child" means a person under 18 years of age and a person under
 16 23 years of age if the person is living in a foster home.

17 * **Sec. 5.** AS 47.18.310 is amended to read:

18 **Sec. 47.18.310. Program design.** The department, in coordination with local
 19 public and private agencies, shall design the program as a continuation of the training
 20 efforts related to independent living skills that were initiated when the state foster care
 21 recipients were identified as being likely to remain in state foster care until reaching
 22 **23 years of age** [THE AGE OF 18]. The program design must require that program
 23 participants are directly involved in identifying the program activities that will prepare
 24 them for independent living.