

**SENATE BILL NO. 62**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR STEVENS

Introduced: 1/19/07

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act establishing the Advisory Committee on Public Reporting of Health Care  
2 Associated Infections; relating to reporting and dissemination of data concerning health  
3 care associated infections; and providing for an effective date."

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

5 \* **Section 1.** AS 18.15.360(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) The department is authorized to collect, analyze, and maintain databases of  
7 information related to

8 (1) risk factors identified for conditions of public health importance;

9 (2) morbidity and mortality rates for conditions of public health  
10 importance;

11 (3) community indicators relevant to conditions of public health  
12 importance;

13 **(4) health care associated infections;** and

14 **(5)** [(4)] any other data needed to accomplish or further the mission or

1 goals of public health or provide essential public health services and functions.

2 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 18.15 is amended by adding a new section to read:

3 **Sec. 18.15.372. Health care associated infections.** (a) The department shall  
4 require health care facilities to report health care associated infections to the  
5 department.

6 (b) The department shall disseminate health information obtained under this  
7 section to the public in a format that will assist health care consumers in making  
8 informed choices about their health care but that does not allow for identification of  
9 the patient.

10 (c) When establishing reporting requirements and mechanisms of  
11 dissemination of information required by this section, the department shall consider  
12 the recommendations of the advisory committee on public reporting of health care  
13 associated infections established under AS 44.29.550 - 44.29.599.

14 (d) In this section, "health care facility" means

15 (1) an ambulatory surgical center, as defined in AS 47.32.900; or

16 (2) a hospital, as defined in AS 47.32.900.

17 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 44.29 is amended by adding new sections to read:

18 **Article 8. Advisory Committee on Public Reporting of Health Care Associated**  
19 **Infections.**

20 **Sec. 44.29.550. Establishment.** (a) The Advisory Committee on Public  
21 Reporting of Health Care Associated Infections is established in the Department of  
22 Health and Social Services.

23 (b) The committee consists of one member of the senate appointed by the  
24 president of the senate; one member of the house of representatives appointed by the  
25 speaker of the house; the state official in charge of epidemiology serving ex officio;  
26 and nine members appointed by the governor as follows;

27 (1) two physicians with significant experience in the area of infectious  
28 diseases;

29 (2) a representative of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium;

30 (3) a representative of the Alaska Chapter of the Association of  
31 Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology;

1 (4) a representative of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home  
2 Association;

3 (5) a health care consumer from urban Alaska;

4 (6) a health care consumer from rural Alaska; and

5 (7) a statistician.

6 **Sec. 44.29.560. Officers; terms; removal.** (a) The committee shall select a  
7 presiding officer of the committee from its membership. The committee may elect  
8 other officers.

9 (b) A member of the committee appointed by the governor serves for a term of  
10 five years and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. A member of the committee  
11 appointed from the legislature serves for the person's term of office as a legislator.

12 (e) A member of the committee may be removed by the appointing authority  
13 for cause after notice and hearing or after missing three consecutive meetings of the  
14 committee. The presiding officer of the committee shall inform the appointing  
15 authority if a member misses three consecutive meetings. After a member of the  
16 committee misses two consecutive meetings and before the third meeting, the  
17 committee shall notify the member in writing that failure to attend the next meeting  
18 may result in the removal of the member. The failure of the committee to notify a  
19 member under this subsection does not prevent the appointing authority from  
20 removing a member for missing three consecutive meetings.

21 **Sec, 44.29.570. Compensation; per diem; expenses.** A member of the  
22 committee who is not a legislator or full-time employee of the state or of a department  
23 of the state is entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and  
24 commissions under AS 39.20.180.

25 **Sec. 44.29.580. Administrative services.** The department shall provide  
26 administrative services for the committee.

27 **Sec. 44.29.590. Duties of the committee.** The committee shall consider,  
28 conduct research, and hold hearings relating to

29 (1) the experience of the public with reporting of infections associated  
30 with care received in a health care facility;

31 (2) drafting recommendations for legislation dealing with reporting of

1 infections associated with care received in a health care facility that address the unique  
2 health care challenges in the state, including

3 (A) reporting mechanisms;

4 (B) data sources and possible outcome and process measures to  
5 be reported;

6 (C) a timeline for implementation of recommendations; and

7 (D) the infrastructure needed for supporting a robust ongoing  
8 reporting system for disseminating accurate data;

9 (3) the establishment of a program that will provide useful data on  
10 patient safety related to health care associated infections in the state; and

11 (4) an evaluation of the department's actions under AS 18.15.372.

12 **Sec. 44.29.599. Definitions.** In AS 44.29.550 - 44.29.599,

13 (1) "committee" means the Advisory Committee on Public Reporting  
14 of Health Care Associated Infections;

15 (2) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Services;

16 (3) "health care facility" has the meaning given in AS 18.15.372.

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

19 INITIAL MEMBERS. When making appointments under AS 44.29.550, enacted by  
20 sec. 3 of this Act, the governor shall consider appointing persons who served as members of  
21 the Task Force to Assess Public Reporting of Health Care Associated Infections established  
22 by the Twenty-Fourth Alaska State Legislature under Legislative Resolve No. 38.

23 \* **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
24 read:

25 REPORTS. The Advisory Committee on Public Reporting of Health Care Associated  
26 Infections established in sec. 3 of this Act shall

27 (1) by January 1, 2009, provide a report to the Department of Health and  
28 Social Services that includes recommendations to the department on the establishment of a  
29 program to provide useful data to the public on patient safety related to health care associated  
30 infections;

31 (2) by January 30, 2011, provide a report to the legislature evaluating actions

1 taken by the Department of Health and Social Services under AS 18.15.372, enacted by sec. 2  
2 of this Act, and making recommendations for future mechanisms or standards for reporting  
3 and dissemination of data on patient safety related to health care associated infections.

4 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 18.15.372(c); AS 44.29.550, 44.29.560, 44.29.570, 44.29.580, 44.29.590, and  
5 44.29.599 are repealed June 30, 2012.

6 \* **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act take effect January 1, 2009.

7 \* **Sec. 8.** Sections 3, 4, and 5 of this Act take effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).