

HOUSE BILL NO. 425

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/7/10

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing a program for the provision of autism services within the**
2 **Department of Health and Social Services."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 47.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Article 3. Autism Services.**

6 **Sec. 47.20.400. Purpose.** The purpose of AS 47.20.400 - 47.20.490 is to create
7 and implement a statewide program to provide and coordinate home-based services for
8 children who have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder and to prevent,
9 reduce, and ameliorate the effects of autism spectrum disorders in the state.

10 **Sec. 47.20.410. Statewide autism services program established.** (a) A
11 statewide program for the provision and coordination of services for the prevention,
12 treatment, and amelioration of the effects of autism spectrum disorders is established
13 in the department.

14 (b) The department shall

1 (1) design the program established under this section to reflect a data-
2 based demonstration of evidence-based early interventions that include the provision
3 of medically necessary and rehabilitative care;

4 (2) provide home-based services to families with a child suspected or
5 diagnosed as having an autism spectrum disorder that include

6 (A) autism spectrum disorders screening;

7 (B) intensive caregiver training to provide support that is
8 consistent with the methods and outcomes established through applied
9 behavior analysis;

10 (C) assessment and planning of direct services by a board
11 certified autism specialist;

12 (D) assistance to achieve and maintain a child's maximum
13 capacity to perform activities of daily living;

14 (E) care coordination;

15 (F) other services determined to be medically necessary and
16 consistent with rehabilitation;

17 (3) establish a centralized database for information related to autism
18 spectrum disorders that includes prevalence, suspected causes, and standards for
19 prevention and care;

20 (4) coordinate and contract with other public and private entities to
21 implement the program, provide direct services, and provide public information and
22 training related to autism spectrum disorders prevention and care;

23 (5) provide supervised service delivery experience to students who are
24 completing national accreditation toward certification in applied behavior analysis;

25 (6) adopt regulations necessary to carry out the program.

26 **Sec. 47.20.420. Program director.** The department shall employ a program
27 director to assist in the design and implementation of the program established under
28 AS 47.20.410 and to supervise and coordinate service delivery and training under the
29 program.

30 **Sec. 47.20.490. Definitions.** In AS 47.20.400 - 47.20.490,

31 (1) "autism spectrum disorders" means a range of disorders that cause

1 severe and pervasive impairment in thinking, feeling, language, and the ability to
2 relate to others; the disorders range from a severe form called autistic disorder,
3 through pervasive development disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), to a
4 much milder form called Asperger's syndrome, and also includes two rare disorders,
5 Rett syndrome and childhood disintegrative disorder;

6 (2) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Services.