

SENATE BILL NO. 172

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

BY SENATOR OLSON

Introduced: 3/27/09

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska Health Care Commission in the Department of Health**
2 **and Social Services; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 18.05.010(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) In performing its duties under this chapter, AS 18.09, and AS 18.15.355 -
6 18.15.395, the department may

7 (1) flexibly use the broad range of powers set out in this title assigned
8 to the department to protect and promote the public health;

9 (2) provide public health information programs or messages to the
10 public that promote healthy behaviors or lifestyles or educate individuals about health
11 issues;

12 (3) promote efforts among public and private sector partners to
13 develop and finance programs or initiatives that identify and ameliorate health
14 problems;

1 (4) establish, finance, provide, or endorse performance management
2 standards for the public health system;

3 (5) develop, adopt, and implement

4 **(A) a statewide health plan under AS 18.09 based on**
5 **recommendations of the Alaska Health Care Commission established in**
6 **AS 18.09.010; and**

7 **(B)** public health plans and formal policies through regulations
8 adopted under AS 44.62 or collaborative recommendations that guide or
9 support individual and community public health efforts;

10 (6) establish formal or informal relationships with public or private
11 sector partners within the public health system;

12 (7) identify, assess, prevent, and ameliorate conditions of public health
13 importance through surveillance; epidemiological tracking, program evaluation, and
14 monitoring; testing and screening programs; treatment; administrative inspections; or
15 other techniques;

16 (8) promote the availability and accessibility of quality health care
17 services through health care facilities or providers;

18 (9) promote availability of and access to preventive and primary health
19 care when not otherwise available through the private sector, including acute and
20 episodic care, prenatal and postpartum care, child health, family planning, school
21 health, chronic disease prevention, child and adult immunization, testing and screening
22 services, dental health, nutrition, and health education and promotion services;

23 (10) systematically and regularly review the public health system and
24 recommend modifications in its structure or other features to improve public health
25 outcomes; and

26 (11) collaborate with public and private sector partners, including
27 municipalities, Alaska Native organizations, health care providers, and health insurers,
28 within the public health system to achieve the mission of public health.

29 * **Sec. 2.** AS 18 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

30 **Chapter 09. Statewide Health Care.**

31 **Article 1. Alaska Health Care Commission.**

1 **Sec. 18.09.010. Alaska Health Care Commission.** The Alaska Health Care
 2 Commission is established in the Department of Health and Social Services. The
 3 purpose of the commission is to provide recommendations for and foster the
 4 development of a statewide plan to address the quality, accessibility, and availability
 5 of health care for all citizens of the state.

6 **Sec. 18.09.020. Composition; chair.** The commission consists of 10 members
 7 as follows:

8 (1) seven voting members appointed by the governor as follows:

9 (A) the state officer assigned the duties of medical director for
 10 the department, who shall serve as chair;

11 (B) one member representing the tribal health community in
 12 the state;

13 (C) one member representing a statewide chamber of
 14 commerce who is not associated with health care;

15 (D) one member representing the Alaska State Hospital and
 16 Nursing Home Association;

17 (E) one member who is a health care provider

18 (i) actively practicing the provider's profession in the
 19 state;

20 (ii) licensed to practice in the state; and

21 (iii) not affiliated with the Alaska State Hospital and
 22 Nursing Home Association;

23 (F) one member who is a representative of the health insurance
 24 industry in the state;

25 (G) one member who is

26 (i) a health care consumer;

27 (ii) a resident of the state; and

28 (iii) not employed by and does not have a business
 29 interest in the health care industry; and

30 (2) three nonvoting members appointed as follows:

31 (A) one ex officio member from the house of representatives,

1 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

2 (B) one ex officio member from the senate, appointed by the
3 president of the senate;

4 (C) an ex officio member representing the Office of the
5 Governor.

6 **Sec. 18.09.030. Term of office.** (a) Public members of the commission
7 appointed under AS 18.09.020(1)(B) - (G) serve for staggered terms of three years or
8 until a successor is appointed.

9 (b) If a vacancy occurs in a public member's seat on the commission, the
10 governor shall make an appointment for the unexpired portion of that member's term.

11 (c) A member may serve not more than two consecutive terms.

12 **Sec. 18.09.040. Executive director.** The commission shall employ an
13 executive director, who may not be a member of the commission. The executive
14 director serves at the pleasure of the commission. The commission shall establish the
15 duties of the executive director. The executive director is in the partially exempt
16 service under AS 39.25 (State Personnel Act).

17 **Sec. 18.09.050. Staff.** The department may assign employees of the
18 department to serve as staff to the commission. The commission shall prescribe the
19 duties of the commission staff.

20 **Sec. 18.09.060. Bylaws.** The commission, on approval of a majority of its
21 membership and consistent with state law, shall adopt and amend bylaws governing
22 proceedings and other activities, including provisions concerning

23 (1) a quorum to transact commission business and other aspects of
24 procedure;

25 (2) frequency and location of meetings;

26 (3) establishment, functions, and membership of committees; and

27 (4) conflicts of interest that require

28 (A) a member to declare a substantial financial interest in an
29 official action and to request to be excused from voting in that instance;

30 (B) a ruling by the chair on a request by a member to be
31 excused from voting;

1 (C) an opportunity to override a ruling by the chair on a
2 majority vote;

3 (D) filing of a written disclosure form with the department that
4 lists all potential conflicts of interest of a member valued at more than \$5,000
5 annually if the interest is related to health care system income affecting the
6 member or a member of the member's immediate family.

7 **Sec. 18.09.070. Duties of the commission.** (a) The commission shall serve as
8 the state health planning and coordinating body. Consistent with state and federal law,
9 the commission shall provide recommendations for and foster the development of a
10 statewide health plan containing the following:

11 (1) a comprehensive statewide health care policy;

12 (2) a strategy for improving the health of all residents of the state that

13 (A) encourages personal responsibility for disease prevention,
14 healthy living, and acquisition of health insurance;

15 (B) reduces health care costs by using savings from

16 (i) enhanced market forces;

17 (ii) fraud reduction;

18 (iii) health information technology;

19 (iv) management efficiency;

20 (v) preventative medicine;

21 (vi) successful innovations identified by other states;

22 and

23 (vii) other cost-saving measures;

24 (C) eliminates known health risks, including unsafe water and
25 wastewater systems;

26 (D) develops a sustainable health care workforce;

27 (E) improves access to quality health care; and

28 (F) increases the number of insurance options for health care
29 services.

30 (b) The commission may hold public hearings to gather information and
31 opinions from health care consumers on matters before the commission. Hearings

1 shall be conducted under AS 44.62.210, except that the commission shall provide
 2 public notice of hearings not less than 15 days before the conduct of the hearing and
 3 include not fewer than three notices published in the statewide news media.

4 (c) The commission shall submit to the governor and the legislature by
 5 January 15 of each year an annual report regarding the commission's
 6 recommendations and activities. The report shall include voting records, copies of
 7 financial disclosures, and conflicts of interest statements.

8 **Sec. 18.09.080. Compensation, per diem, and expenses.** A member
 9 appointed to the commission under AS 18.09.020(1)(B) - (G) is not entitled to a
 10 salary, but is entitled to per diem, reimbursement for travel, and other expenses
 11 authorized by law for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

12 **Article 2. General Provisions.**

13 **Sec. 18.09.900. Regulations.** The department may adopt regulations under
 14 AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

15 **Sec. 18.09.990. Definitions.** In this chapter,

16 (1) "commission" means the Alaska Health Care Commission
 17 established in AS 18.09.010;

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

19 * **Sec. 3.** AS 39.25.120(c)(7) is amended to read:

20 (7) the principal executive officer of the following boards, councils, or
 21 commissions:

22 (A) Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission;

23 (B) Professional Teaching Practices Commission;

24 (C) Parole Board;

25 (D) Board of Nursing;

26 (E) Real Estate Commission;

27 (F) Alaska Royalty Oil and Gas Development Advisory Board;

28 (G) Alaska State Council on the Arts;

29 (H) Alaska Police Standards Council;

30 (I) Alaska Commission on Aging;

31 (J) Alaska Mental Health Board;

1 (K) State Medical Board;

2 (L) Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education;

3 (M) Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse;

4 (N) Statewide Suicide Prevention Council;

5 (O) the State Board of Registration for Architect, Engineers,
6 and Land Surveyors;

7 **(P) Alaska Health Care Commission;**

8 * **Sec. 4.** AS 44.66.010(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) Boards and commissions listed in this subsection expire on the date set out
10 after each:

11 (1) Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (AS 04.06.010) - June 30, 2010;

12 (2) Board of Parole (AS 33.16.020) - June 30, 2016;

13 (3) Regulatory Commission of Alaska (AS 42.04.010) - June 30, 2011;

14 (4) Alaska Commission on Aging (AS 47.45.200) - June 30, 2016;

15 (5) Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (AS 18.66.010)
16 - June 30, 2014;

17 (6) special education service agency (AS 14.30.600) - June 30, 2013;

18 (7) [REPEALED

19 (8)] Statewide Suicide Prevention Council (AS 44.29.300) - June 30,
20 2009;

21 **(8)** [(9)] Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission (AS 44.37.065) -
22 June 30, 2012;

23 **(9) Alaska Health Care Commission (AS 18.09.010) - June 30,**
24 **2014.**

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

27 TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The Department of Health and Social Services may
28 proceed to adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The
29 regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the
30 effective date of the statutory change.

31 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to

1 read:

2 TRANSITION: ALASKA HEALTH CARE COMMISSION. The members appointed
3 to the Alaska Health Care Commission, established by Administrative Order No. 246 dated
4 December 4, 2008, shall serve as the members of the Alaska Health Care Commission under
5 AS 18.09.010 for one-year to three-year staggered terms as determined by the governor.

6 * **Sec. 7.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).