

**SENATE BILL NO. 188**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/9/09

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to the qualifications for residential psychiatric treatment center**  
2 **caregiver staff; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 47.32 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 47.32.055. Residential psychiatric treatment caregiver qualifications**  
6 **and training.** (a) In addition to the other requirements of this chapter, an applicant for  
7 a license or renewal of a license to operate a residential psychiatric treatment center  
8 must comply with the standards set out in this section relating to training and  
9 scheduling of caregivers.

10 (b) A caregiver employed by a residential psychiatric treatment center must  
11 have

12 (1) a bachelor's degree;

13 (2) completed not less than two years of work experience in the  
14 treatment of severely emotionally disturbed children and

1 (A) have an associate degree; or

2 (B) have completed not less than two years of full-time course  
3 work toward a bachelor's degree;

4 (3) completed not less than four years of work experience as a  
5 caregiver of severely emotionally disturbed children and

6 (A) have a high school diploma or general educational  
7 development diploma; or

8 (B) have completed the training provided or approved under (c)  
9 of this section; or

10 (4) completed the training provided or approved under (c) of this  
11 section and

12 (A) have a high school diploma or general educational  
13 development diploma; and

14 (B) be assigned to work at the center only during hours in  
15 which an individual is on duty at the center who has a bachelor's degree in a  
16 human-services-related field or who meets the requirement of (1) or (2) of this  
17 subsection.

18 (c) The department shall provide or approve mandatory training for caregivers  
19 employed by a residential psychiatric treatment center in the state.

20 (d) In this section, "caregiver" means an individual employed by a residential  
21 psychiatric treatment center to provide direct care and supervision of children admitted  
22 to the center and who is not a physician, registered nurse, or mental health  
23 professional.

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

26 TRANSITION. Applications approved or renewed by the Department of Health and  
27 Social Services for licensing of a residential psychiatric treatment center before the effective  
28 date of this Act shall be reviewed for compliance with this Act, and a notice shall be mailed to  
29 licensees notifying the licensees of the requirements under AS 47.32.055.

30 \* **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).