

HOUSE BILL NO. 209

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES HERRON, Kerttula, Holmes

Introduced: 3/25/11

Referred: Health and Social Services, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act requiring a health care insurer to provide coverage for tobacco cessation**
2 **treatment."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 21.42 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 21.42.420. Coverage for tobacco cessation treatment.** (a) A health care
6 insurer that offers, issues for delivery, delivers, or renews a health care insurance plan
7 in the state shall provide coverage for a minimum of two courses of tobacco cessation
8 treatment during each plan year.

9 (b) Coverage for a course of tobacco cessation treatment must include the cost
10 of

11 (1) not less than four tobacco cessation counseling sessions provided
12 by a qualified counselor, which may be provided by telephone or in person in a group
13 or individual setting, and which must last not less than 10 minutes a session;

14 (2) over-the-counter medication or prescribed medication approved by

1 the United States Food and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation treatment.

2 (c) Coverage for tobacco cessation treatment may not

3 (1) require an insured individual to obtain preauthorization from the
4 health care insurer before receiving treatment;

5 (2) require a referral from a health care provider to participate in
6 tobacco cessation treatment;

7 (3) require an individual to participate in a counseling session in order
8 to receive coverage for medication;

9 (4) include treatment or financial requirements that are more restrictive
10 than the financial limitations or conditions applicable to the medical or surgical
11 benefits under the policy, including limitations on payments, deductible, or copayment
12 amounts.

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

15 **APPLICABILITY.** AS 21.42.420, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, applies to a health
16 care insurance plan offered, issued for delivery, delivered, or renewed after the effective date
17 of this Act.