

**SENATE BILL NO. 87**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS FRENCH, Davis, Ellis, Wielechowski, Wagoner, Kookesh, McGuire, Paskvan, Egan, Menard, Stedman, Thomas, Meyer, Stevens

REPRESENTATIVES Kawasaki, Tuck

Introduced: 2/11/11

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act establishing a program in the Department of Commerce, Community, and  
2 Economic Development for payment of grants to health care providers for care of  
3 patients who are 65 years of age or older."

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

5 \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
6 to read:

7 SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Alaska Medical Care for Seniors Act.

8 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 18.28 is amended by adding a new section to read:

9 **Article 2. Grants for Seniors' Medical Care.**

10 **Sec. 18.28.200. Medical care for seniors grant program.** (a) A grant  
11 program is established in the department to assist in the provision of primary medical  
12 care for seniors by health care providers in the state.

13 (b) Subject to the availability of funding, the department shall award grant  
14 funding in an amount determined by the department to an eligible health care provider.

1 (c) The department shall adopt regulations to carry out the program  
2 established in this section. The regulations must be consistent with federal law and  
3 include

4 (1) an application and award procedure;

5 (2) eligibility standards that include the lack of availability to the  
6 applicant of reasonable compensation for services;

7 (3) adequate proof that a grant is necessary to enable the applicant to  
8 provide increased primary care services to seniors;

9 (4) a priority for the award of a grant to a health care provider located  
10 in an area in which other health care providers have refused to treat patients who are  
11 65 years of age or older and that serves a high percentage of medically underserved  
12 populations as determined by the commissioner of health and social services;

13 (5) a priority for the award of a grant to a health care provider who can  
14 demonstrate the greatest increase in service for the lowest grant amount;

15 (6) other requirements necessary to carry out the program.

16 (d) The department may not award a grant under this section for the provision  
17 of primary medical care services if the services are received by a person who has  
18 public or private insurance coverage that adequately compensates an applicant for the  
19 provision of those services, as determined by the department in consultation with the  
20 Department of Health and Social Services.

21 (e) To the extent permitted by law, the department may enter into agreements  
22 with and shall consult with the Department of Health and Social Services in  
23 implementing this section.

24 (f) In this section,

25 (1) "department" means the Department of Commerce, Community,  
26 and Economic Development;

27 (2) "health care provider" means a physician, osteopath, physician  
28 assistant, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or chiropractor licensed in  
29 the state and qualified to provide primary care services;

30 (3) "seniors" means residents of the state who are 65 years of age or  
31 older.

1       \* **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
2 read:

3               REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION. The revisor of statutes shall substitute "AS 18.28.010 -  
4 18.28.100" for "this chapter" in AS 18.28.040, 18.28.050, and 18.28.100.