

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 90(HSS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/9/14

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SEATON, Gruenberg

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to a temporary health project for testing mothers and newborns for**
2 **baseline vitamin D levels and supplying supplementation and nutritional education."**

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

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

6 VITAMIN D TESTING FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND NEWBORNS. (a) The
7 legislature finds that multiple studies demonstrate a link between vitamin D insufficiency in
8 newborns and higher incidences of mental and physical health problems that lead to higher
9 costs of future medical, educational, and support services. Studies also show lower rates of
10 negative pregnancy outcomes with adequate vitamin D levels.

11 (b) On or before January 1, 2015, the department shall coordinate a 24-month project
12 for the purpose of acquiring data on vitamin D levels of 500 pregnant women and their
13 newborns born in the state during the testing period as provided in this section.

14 (c) The department shall award a matching grant of not more than 20 percent of the

1 entire project cost, not to exceed \$100,000, to a nonprofit entity to provide, at no cost to the
2 health care provider or to the participant, the following services:

3 (1) initiate a voluntary health project in the state to

4 (A) determine vitamin D levels of pregnant women and their
5 newborns;

6 (B) provide vitamin D supplementation, as needed, to project
7 participants; and

8 (C) provide public information regarding the project and the effects of
9 vitamin D deficiency;

10 (2) take or supervise the taking of blood-spot samples from approximately 500
11 volunteer pregnant women and their newborns for vitamin D level testing;

12 (3) conduct, to the extent feasible, the vitamin D testing at the same time as
13 other newborn or cord blood testing;

14 (4) ensure that the sampling complies with federal and state privacy laws;

15 (5) submit the samples to the group that is under contract with the department
16 to analyze the samples; and

17 (6) provide follow-up to the project participants as necessary to provide
18 nutritional education and vitamin D supplementation, if warranted.

19 (d) The department shall contract with a research group that is affiliated with an
20 accredited university in the United States and that is conducting national clinical research on
21 the subject of newborn and prenatal vitamin D levels to provide technical support and to
22 analyze the samples and data collected under (c) of this section.

23 (e) The department shall notify health care providers licensed in the state of the
24 existence of the project and provide contact information for the grantee under (c) of this
25 section.

26 (f) In this section,

27 (1) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Services;

28 (2) "health care provider" means a physician, physician assistant, midwife, or
29 nurse.