

**HOUSE BILL NO. 39**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES SEATON, Millett, Vazquez, Muñoz, Edgmon, Gara**

**Introduced: 1/21/15**

**Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1   **"An Act establishing the Advisory Committee on Wellness; and relating to the**  
2   **administration of state group health insurance policies."**

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

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

6           LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds that

7                   (1) individual Alaskans and the state share the burden of increasing health care  
8   and insurance costs resulting from avoidable disease in humans;

9                   (2) state policy should focus more on avoiding disease and maintaining good  
10   health in the state's population;

11                  (3) the state relies partly on federal one-size-fits-all human health policy  
12   recommendations, creating federal overreach into the state's administration of health policy;

13                  (4) the state's human health policies should incorporate peer-reviewed  
14   scientific studies that illustrate health-related differences between the population of the state

1 and the populations of other states;

2 (5) the health policies of the state can affect the frequency and severity of  
3 disease present in the state's population;

4 (6) by establishing wellness initiatives to decrease the frequency and severity  
5 of disease present in the state's population, the state can slow the rate of annual growth in the  
6 state's cost of providing health care benefits to persons who are covered by a policy of group  
7 health insurance obtained under AS 39.30.090(a) or 39.30.091(a).

8 (b) It is the intent of the legislature that, by establishing a wellness committee and  
9 wellness initiatives that create incentives and methods to decrease the frequency and severity  
10 of disease in the state's population, the state will slow the rate of growth in the state's cost of  
11 providing health care benefits to persons who are covered by a policy of group health  
12 insurance obtained under AS 39.30.090(a) or 39.30.091(a) to a rate that does not exceed two  
13 percent annually.

14 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 39.30.090(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

15 (13) To the greatest extent legally and reasonably practicable, the  
16 Department of Administration shall work to hold the escalation of health care costs to  
17 less than two percent annually by administering policies of group health insurance  
18 obtained under this subsection in a manner that is likely to reduce the incidence of  
19 disease in the state's population and that facilitates implementation of the  
20 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Wellness established under  
21 AS 39.30.093.

22 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 39.30.091 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

23 (b) To the greatest extent legally and reasonably practicable, the Department  
24 of Administration shall work to hold the escalation of health care costs to less than two  
25 percent annually by administering policies of group health insurance obtained under  
26 this section in a manner that is likely to reduce the incidence of disease in the state's  
27 population and that facilitates implementation of the recommendations of the  
28 Advisory Committee on Wellness established under AS 39.30.093.

29 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 39.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

30 **Sec. 39.30.093. Advisory Committee on Wellness.** (a) The Advisory  
31 Committee on Wellness is established in the Department of Administration. The

1 committee consists of at least seven volunteer members appointed by the  
2 commissioner of administration who serve at the pleasure of the commissioner.

3 (b) The committee shall select one of its members as chair.

4 (c) The commissioner shall appoint members who represent each region of the  
5 state to give the committee a reasonable geographic balance among regions of the state  
6 and shall appoint at least one member who is a professional provider of medical  
7 services.

8 (d) The committee shall meet at the call of the chair or at the request of a  
9 majority of its members. A member may attend a meeting by telephone or other means  
10 of telecommunication.

11 (e) At intervals of six months, the committee shall make recommendations to  
12 the commissioner of administration regarding the adoption of wellness initiatives to  
13 improve the physical and mental health of persons who are covered by a policy of  
14 group health insurance obtained under AS 39.30.090(a) or 39.30.091(a).

15 (f) Not later than six months after receiving a recommendation made under (e)  
16 of this section, the commissioner of administration shall provide to the committee a  
17 report on the commissioner's progress in advancing the recommendation and the  
18 recommendation's effect on

19 (1) the health of the population covered by a policy of group health  
20 insurance obtained under AS 39.30.090(a) or 39.30.091(a);

21 (2) the state's cost of providing health care to persons who are covered  
22 by a policy of group health insurance obtained under AS 39.30.090(a) or 39.30.091(a).

23 (g) Members of the committee serve without compensation.