

**HOUSE BILL NO. 259**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES VANCE, Wright, Carpenter**

**Introduced: 1/16/24**

**Referred: State Affairs, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act establishing the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking; and relating to the**  
2 **Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault."**

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

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 18.66.050 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 18.66.050. Duties of the council.** The council shall

6 (1) **coordinate with the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking to**  
7 **jointly** hire an executive director **to oversee the council and the Council on Human**  
8 **and Sex Trafficking**, and the executive director may hire staff; the executive director  
9 is in the exempt service under AS 39.25.110 and staff members are in the classified  
10 service under AS 39.25.100;

11 (2) elect one of its members as presiding officer;

12 (3) in consultation with authorities in the field, develop, implement,  
13 maintain, and monitor domestic violence, sexual assault, and crisis intervention and  
14 prevention programs, including educational programs, films, and school curricula on

1 the cause, prevention, and treatment of domestic violence and sexual assault;

2 (4) coordinate services provided by the Department of Law, the  
3 Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Public Safety,  
4 the Department of Health, the Department of Corrections, and other state agencies and  
5 community groups dealing with domestic violence, sexual assault, and crisis  
6 intervention and prevention, and provide technical assistance as requested by those  
7 state agencies and community groups;

8 (5) develop and implement a standardized data collection system on  
9 domestic violence, sexual assault, and crisis intervention and prevention;

10 (6) conduct public hearings and studies on issues relating to violence,  
11 including domestic violence and sexual assault, and on issues relating to the role of  
12 crisis intervention and prevention;

13 (7) receive and dispense state and federal money and award grants and  
14 contracts from appropriations for the purpose to qualified local community entities for  
15 domestic violence, sexual assault, and crisis intervention and prevention programs;

16 (8) oversee and audit domestic violence, sexual assault, and crisis  
17 intervention and prevention programs that receive money under this chapter;

18 (9) provide fiscal and technical assistance to plan, organize,  
19 implement, and administer domestic violence, sexual assault, and crisis intervention  
20 and prevention programs;

21 (10) make an annual report to the governor on the activities of the  
22 council, plans of the council for new services and programs, and concerns of the  
23 council, including recommendations for legislation necessary to carry out the purposes  
24 of this chapter; the council shall notify the legislature that the report is available;

25 (11) adopt regulations in accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative  
26 Procedure Act) to carry out the purposes of this chapter and to protect the health,  
27 safety, well-being, and privacy of persons receiving services financed with grants or  
28 contracts under this chapter;

29 (12) consult with the Department of Health in the formulation of  
30 standards and procedures for the delivery of services to victims of domestic violence  
31 by health care facilities and practitioners of healing arts and personnel in those

1 facilities as required in AS 18.66.300;

2 (13) consult with the Alaska Police Standards Council and other police  
3 training programs in the state to develop training programs regarding domestic  
4 violence for police officers and for correction, probation, and parole officers;

5 (14) consult with public employers, the Alaska Supreme Court, school  
6 districts, and prosecuting authorities who are required by AS 18.66.300 - 18.66.310 to  
7 provide continuing education courses in domestic violence to employees.

8 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 39.25.110(38) is amended to read:

9 (38) the executive director of the Council on Domestic Violence and  
10 Sexual Assault established under AS 18.66.010 **and the Council on Human and Sex**  
11 **Trafficking established under AS 44.41.150;**

12 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 39.50.200(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

13 (65) Council on Human and Sex Trafficking (AS 44.41.150).

14 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 44.41 is amended by adding new sections to read:

15 **Article 2. Council on Human and Sex Trafficking.**

16 **Sec. 44.41.150. Council on Human and Sex Trafficking.** The Council on  
17 Human and Sex Trafficking is created in the Department of Public Safety. The  
18 purpose of the council is to provide planning and coordination of programs specific to  
19 victim services, education, public awareness, data collection and dissemination, and  
20 reducing demand for human and sex trafficking.

21 **Sec. 44.41.155. Duties.** (a) The council shall

22 (1) elect one of its members as chair;

23 (2) develop and implement a standardized data collection system on  
24 human and sex trafficking, including methods for synthesizing and disseminating data  
25 and establishing standardized definitions as necessary;

26 (3) receive and dispense state and federal money and award grants and  
27 contracts from appropriations to qualified local community entities for the purpose of  
28 human and sex trafficking intervention and prevention programs;

29 (4) oversee and audit qualified local community entities that receive  
30 money from the council;

31 (5) coordinate and consult with the Department of Education and Early

1 Development, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Health, the  
 2 Department of Law, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the  
 3 Department of Family and Community Services, the Department of Public Safety,  
 4 other state agencies and qualified local community entities dealing with human and  
 5 sex trafficking, including the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and  
 6 survivors of human and sex trafficking to develop educational materials and resources  
 7 related to, and increase public awareness of, human and sex trafficking;

8 (6) provide technical assistance as requested by the state agencies and  
 9 qualified local community entities listed in (5) of this subsection;

10 (7) conduct public hearings and create opportunities for public input on  
 11 issues relating to human and sex trafficking in the state;

12 (8) make an annual report to the governor on the activities of the  
 13 council, plans of the council for new services and programs, and concerns of the  
 14 council, including recommendations for legislation necessary to carry out the purposes  
 15 of AS 44.41.150 - 44.41.175; the council shall notify the legislature that the report is  
 16 available;

17 (9) coordinate with the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual  
 18 Assault to jointly hire an executive director to oversee the council and the Council on  
 19 Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and the executive director may hire staff; the  
 20 executive director is in the exempt service under AS 39.25.110 and staff members are  
 21 in the classified service under AS 39.25.100.

22 (b) The council may create advisory subcommittees.

23 **Sec. 44.41.160. Membership.** (a) The council consists of the following 17  
 24 members:

25 (1) seven members appointed by the governor as follows:

26 (A) two members who are mayors or elected officials in local  
 27 government;

28 (B) one member who represents a victim advocacy  
 29 organization;

30 (C) one member who represents an Alaska Native organization;  
 31 in this subparagraph, "Alaska Native organization" has the meaning given in

1 AS 18.66.020(d);

2 (D) one member who represents a local law enforcement  
3 agency;

4 (E) one member who represents a faith-based community  
5 organization; and

6 (F) one member who represents an organization that provides  
7 direct services to the homeless;

8 (2) the chief executive officer of the Alaska Mental Health Trust  
9 Authority or the chief executive officer's designee;

10 (3) the commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee;

11 (4) the attorney general or the attorney general's designee;

12 (5) the commissioner of public safety or the commissioner's designee;

13 (6) the commissioner of corrections or the commissioner's designee;

14 (7) the commissioner of education and early development or the  
15 commissioner's designee;

16 (8) the commissioner of labor and workforce development or the  
17 commissioner's designee;

18 (9) the commissioner of family and community services or the  
19 commissioner's designee; and

20 (10) two nonvoting members appointed as follows:

21 (A) one ex officio member from the house of representatives,  
22 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

23 (B) one ex officio member from the senate, appointed by the  
24 president of the senate.

25 (b) Public members of the council appointed under (a)(1) and (2) of this  
26 section serve three-year terms. A public member serves at the pleasure of the governor  
27 and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Nonvoting members appointed  
28 under (a)(10) of this section serve staggered three-year terms and may not serve more  
29 than two full terms. A vacancy on the council shall be filled for the unexpired term by  
30 appointment by the governor.

31 (c) A person who receives compensation from or is an employee of the state or

1 a human or sex trafficking crisis intervention or prevention program may not be  
2 appointed as a public member of the council.

3 **Sec. 44.41.165. Meetings and quorum.** (a) The council shall meet at least  
4 quarterly at times and locations to be determined by the chair. Additional meetings  
5 may be called by the chair. The council and its advisory subcommittees shall, to the  
6 extent practicable, allow participation by council members by teleconference or other  
7 electronic means.

8 (b) The council may convene public meetings to present information and  
9 receive public comment.

10 (c) Eight members of the council or a majority of filled positions, whichever is  
11 less, constitutes a quorum for conducting business.

12 **Sec. 44.41.170. Compensation and expenses.** The members of the council  
13 receive no salary but are entitled to transportation expenses and per diem in  
14 accordance with AS 39.20.180.

15 **Sec. 44.41.175. Definitions.** In AS 44.41.150 - 44.41.175,

16 (1) "council" means the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking;

17 (2) "human and sex trafficking" means conduct in violation of  
18 AS 11.41.360, 11.41.365, or AS 11.66.110 - 11.66.130.

19 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

20 (15) Council on Human and Sex Trafficking (AS 44.41.150) - June 30,  
21 2028.

22 \* **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
23 read:

24 **TRANSITION: DIRECTOR.** (a) Notwithstanding AS 18.66.050(1), as amended by  
25 sec. 1 of this Act, and AS 44.41.155(a)(9), enacted by sec. 4 of this Act, the person serving as  
26 the executive director of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault on the day  
27 before the effective date of this Act shall also serve, under the same terms and conditions, as  
28 the executive director of the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking, created under  
29 AS 44.41.150, enacted by sec. 4 of this Act.

30 (b) On or after the effective date of this Act, when a vacancy occurs in the executive  
31 director position for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and the Council

1 on Human and Sex Trafficking, that position shall be filled as provided in AS 18.66.050(1), as  
2 amended by sec. 1 of this Act, and AS 44.41.155(a)(9), enacted by sec. 4 of this Act.