

**HOUSE BILL NO. 264**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES VANCE, Josephson**

**Introduced: 1/16/24**

**Referred: Health and Social Services**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act requiring the Department of Family and Community Services to adopt a**  
2 **uniform screening tool; requiring shelters for runaway minors to screen minors for**  
3 **victimization relating to sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and commercial sexual**  
4 **exploitation; requiring the Department of Family and Community Services to screen**  
5 **children in need of aid for victimization relating to sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and**  
6 **commercial sexual exploitation; and relating to the duty of the Department of Family**  
7 **and Community Services to investigate the experiences of missing children in need of aid**  
8 **who have been located."**

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

10 **\* Section 1.** AS 47.10.394(c) is amended to read:

11 (c) In this section,

12 **(1)** "child abuse or neglect" has the meaning given in AS 47.17.290;

1                   **(2) "commercial sexual exploitation" means the sexual abuse or**  
 2                   **exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for**  
 3                   **anything of value given or received by any person.**

4 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 47.10.394 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5                   (d) A shelter for runaway minors shall use the uniform screening tool adopted  
 6                   under AS 47.14.100(u) to screen minors receiving services to determine whether the  
 7                   minor is a victim, or at risk of becoming a victim, of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or  
 8                   commercial sexual exploitation. A shelter for runaway minors shall screen a minor  
 9                   upon intake and any time the shelter receives information that circumstances exist  
 10                  indicating that the minor is at a heightened risk for sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or  
 11                  commercial sexual exploitation.

12 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 47.14.100(t) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

13                  (4) "commercial sexual exploitation" means the sexual abuse or  
 14                  exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for  
 15                  anything of value given or received by any person.

16 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 47.14.100 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

17                  (u) The department shall adopt a uniform screening tool to screen children  
 18                  committed to the department to identify whether a child is a victim, or at risk of  
 19                  becoming a victim, of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or commercial sexual exploitation.  
 20                  The department shall use the tool to screen a child committed to the department each  
 21                  time the child is committed to the department or the department receives information  
 22                  that circumstances exist indicating that the child is at a heightened risk for sexual  
 23                  abuse, sex trafficking, or commercial sexual exploitation.

24                  (v) Upon locating a child committed to the custody of the department who was  
 25                  missing, abducted, or ran away, the department shall

26                               (1) investigate the child's experiences while absent from the custody of  
 27                               the department;

28                               (2) determine the primary factors that caused or contributed to the  
 29                               child's absence; and

30                               (3) screen the child to determine whether the child is a victim of sexual  
 31                               abuse, sex trafficking, or commercial sexual exploitation.