

SENATE BILL NO. 46

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS TOBIN, Myers, Gray-Jackson, Dunbar, Kawasaki, Kaufman, Merrick

REPRESENTATIVES Wright, Josephson, Dibert

Introduced: 1/25/23

Referred: State Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the month of March as Brain Injury Awareness Month."**

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

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

5 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) In establishing Brain Injury
6 Awareness Month, it is the intent of the legislature to recognize the prevalence of brain
7 injuries and help improve the quality of life for individuals who have sustained a brain injury.

8 (b) The legislature finds that

9 (1) traumatic and acquired brain injuries can happen to anyone and can bring a
10 lifetime of secondary health conditions, including persistent concussion symptoms, post-
11 traumatic stress injury, physical impairment, developmental delays, paralysis, cognitive and
12 behavioral problems, suicidal thoughts, and a greater risk for dementia and Alzheimer's
13 disease, which may present lifelong challenges for individuals and their families;

14 (2) traumatic brain injuries, which often result from motor vehicle accidents,
15 falls, assaults, domestic violence, and sports and occupational injuries, are largely

1 preventable;

2 (3) the rate of identified traumatic and acquired brain injuries in the state is
3 significantly higher than the national rate;

4 (4) between 3,200,000 and 5,300,000 Americans live with long-term
5 disabilities resulting from traumatic brain injuries;

6 (5) the Brain Injury Association of America reports that every nine seconds
7 someone in the United States sustains a brain injury; and

8 (6) approximately 137 people die every day in the United States because of
9 traumatic brain injury-related injuries.

10 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to article 2 to read:

11 **Sec. 44.12.185. Brain Injury Awareness Month.** The month of March each
12 year is established as Brain Injury Awareness Month. Brain Injury Awareness Month
13 may be observed by schools, community groups, and other public and private agencies
14 and individuals with appropriate activities that increase the public's awareness of
15 prevention and treatment of brain injuries.