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HOUSE CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 46(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/9/24
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS TOBIN, Myers, Gray-Jackson, Dunbar, Kawasaki, Kaufman, Merrick

REPRESENTATIVES Wright, Josephson, Dibert

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the month of March as Brain Injury Awareness Month; and**
2 **providing for an effective date."**

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

9 (b) The legislature finds that

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

1 (2) traumatic brain injuries, which often result from motor vehicle accidents,
2 falls, assaults, domestic violence, and sports and occupational injuries, are largely
3 preventable;

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

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

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

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

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

13 **Sec. 44.12.190. Brain Injury Awareness Month.** The month of March each
14 year is established as Brain Injury Awareness Month. Brain Injury Awareness Month
15 may be observed by schools, community groups, and other public and private agencies
16 and individuals with appropriate activities that increase the public's awareness of
17 prevention and treatment of brain injuries.

18 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).