

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 53(JUD)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/7/23

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS CLAMAN, Gray-Jackson

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to competency to stand trial; relating to involuntary civil**
2 **commitments; and relating to victims' rights during certain civil commitment**
3 **proceedings."**

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

5 * **Section 1.** AS 12.47.070(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) If a defendant has filed a notice of intention to rely on the affirmative
7 defense of insanity under AS 12.47.010 or has filed notice under AS 12.47.020(a), or
8 there is reason to doubt the defendant's fitness to proceed, or there is reason to believe
9 that a mental disease or defect of the defendant will otherwise become an issue in the
10 case, the court shall appoint **a qualified psychiatrist or psychologist** [AT LEAST
11 TWO QUALIFIED PSYCHIATRISTS OR TWO FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGISTS
12 CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY] to
13 examine and report **on** [UPON] the mental condition of the defendant. If the court
14 appoints **a psychiatrist** [PSYCHIATRISTS], the **psychiatrist** [PSYCHIATRISTS]

1 may select psychologists to provide assistance. If the defendant has filed notice under
2 AS 12.47.090(a), the report shall consider whether the defendant can still be
3 committed under AS 12.47.090(c). The court may order the defendant to be committed
4 to a secure facility for the purpose of the examination for not more than 60 days or **for**
5 **a** [SUCH] longer period as the court determines to be necessary for the purpose and
6 may direct that a qualified psychiatrist retained by the defendant be permitted to
7 witness and participate in the examination.

8 * **Sec. 2.** AS 12.47.100(b) is amended to read:

9 (b) If, before imposition of sentence, the prosecuting attorney or the attorney
10 for the defendant has reasonable cause to believe that the defendant is presently
11 suffering from a mental disease or defect that causes the defendant to be unable to
12 understand the proceedings or to assist in the person's own defense, the attorney may
13 file a motion for a judicial determination of the competency of the defendant. Upon
14 that motion, or upon its own motion, the court, **after making findings of fact and**
15 **conclusions of law that justify an examination,** shall have the defendant examined
16 by at least one qualified psychiatrist or psychologist, who shall report to the court
17 concerning the competency of the defendant. For the purpose of the examination, the
18 court may order the defendant committed for a reasonable period to a suitable hospital
19 or other facility designated by the court. If the report of the psychiatrist or
20 psychologist indicates that the defendant is incompetent, the court shall hold a hearing,
21 upon due notice, at which evidence as to the competency of the defendant may be
22 submitted, including that of the reporting psychiatrist or psychologist, and make
23 appropriate findings. Before the hearing, the court shall, upon request of the
24 prosecuting attorney, order the defendant to submit to an additional evaluation by a
25 psychiatrist or psychologist designated by the prosecuting attorney.

26 * **Sec. 3.** AS 12.47.100 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

27 (i) The court may order a defendant to be examined under this section at an
28 outpatient clinic or other facility as a condition of the defendant's release under
29 AS 12.30. In considering the conditions of a defendant's release under this subsection,
30 the court shall, in addition to any applicable requirement under AS 12.30, consider

31 (1) any medical information provided by the Department of Family

1 and Community Services;

2 (2) the defendant's mental condition;

3 (3) the defendant's level of need for evaluation and treatment under
4 this chapter;

5 (4) the defendant's ability to participate in outpatient treatment; and

6 (5) the defendant's history of evaluation and treatment under this
7 chapter.

8 (j) If the defendant is charged with a felony offense against a person under
9 AS 11.41 or felony arson, a qualified psychiatrist or psychologist conducting an
10 examination under (b) of this section may, at the same time, evaluate the defendant to
11 determine whether the defendant meets the standards for involuntary commitment
12 under AS 47.30.700 - 47.30.915.

13 (k) In making findings of fact and conclusions of law under (b) of this section,
14 a court may rely on a defense attorney's representation, including privileged
15 information provided at an ex parte hearing.

16 * **Sec. 4.** AS 12.47.110(b) is amended to read:

17 (b) On or before the expiration of the initial 90-day period of commitment, the
18 court shall conduct a hearing to determine whether or not the defendant remains
19 incompetent. If the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant
20 remains incompetent, the court may recommit the defendant for a second period of 90
21 days. The court shall determine at the expiration of the second 90-day period whether
22 the defendant has become competent. If, at the expiration of the second 90-day period,
23 the court determines that the defendant continues to be incompetent to stand trial, the
24 charges against the defendant shall be dismissed without prejudice, and continued
25 commitment of the defendant shall be governed by the provisions relating to civil
26 commitments under AS 47.30.700 - 47.30.915 unless the defendant is charged with a
27 **felony offense against a person under AS 11.41 or felony arson** [CRIME
28 INVOLVING FORCE AGAINST A PERSON] and the court finds that the defendant
29 presents a substantial danger of physical injury to other persons and that there is a
30 substantial probability that the defendant will regain competency within a reasonable
31 period of time, in which case the court may extend the period of commitment for an

1 additional **18** [SIX] months. If the defendant remains incompetent at the expiration of
2 the additional **18-month** [SIX-MONTH] period, the charges shall be dismissed
3 without prejudice, and continued commitment proceedings shall be governed by the
4 provisions relating to civil commitment under AS 47.30.700 - 47.30.915. If the
5 defendant remains incompetent for five years after the charges have been dismissed
6 under this subsection, the defendant may not be charged again for an offense arising
7 out of the facts alleged in the original charges, except if the original charge is a class A
8 felony or unclassified felony.

9 * **Sec. 5.** AS 12.47.110 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

10 (f) The court may order a defendant to receive further evaluation and
11 treatment under (a) or (b) of this section at an outpatient clinic or other facility as a
12 condition of the defendant's release under AS 12.30. In considering the conditions of a
13 defendant's release under this subsection, the court shall, in addition to any applicable
14 requirement under AS 12.30, consider

15 (1) any medical information provided by the Department of Family
16 and Community Services;

17 (2) the defendant's mental condition;

18 (3) the defendant's level of need for evaluation and treatment under
19 this chapter;

20 (4) the defendant's ability to participate in outpatient treatment; and

21 (5) the defendant's history of evaluation and treatment under this
22 chapter.

23 (g) If, under (b) of this section, the court finds that a defendant charged with a
24 felony offense against a person under AS 11.41 or felony arson remains incompetent
25 at the expiration of a second 90-day period and the court does not extend the period of
26 commitment for an additional 18 months, or if the court finds that the defendant
27 remains incompetent at the expiration of the additional 18-month period, the
28 prosecutor shall

29 (1) file a petition seeking involuntary commitment of the defendant
30 under AS 47.30.706 before dismissal of the charges;

31 (2) notify the division of the Department of Law that has responsibility

1 for civil cases of the petition within 24 hours after filing the petition; and

2 (3) provide the court's findings to the division of the Department of
3 Law that has responsibility for civil cases within 24 hours after the court's ruling.

4 * **Sec. 6.** AS 47.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 47.30.706. Commitment after finding of incompetence.** (a) If a person
6 who has been charged with a felony offense against a person under AS 11.41 or felony
7 arson has been found incompetent to proceed under AS 12.47, an attorney with the
8 Department of Law shall petition a court to have the person delivered to the nearest
9 evaluation facility for an evaluation under AS 47.30.710.

10 (b) Upon receiving a petition under (a) of this section, a court shall, unless the
11 presumption in (d) of this section has been successfully rebutted, issue an ex parte
12 order orally or in writing stating that there is probable cause to believe the respondent
13 is mentally ill and that condition causes the respondent to present a likelihood of
14 serious harm to self or others. The court shall appoint an attorney to represent the
15 respondent and may direct that a peace officer take the respondent into custody and
16 deliver the respondent to the nearest appropriate facility for evaluation. The ex parte
17 order shall be provided to the respondent and made a part of the respondent's clinical
18 record. The court shall set a date, time, and place for a 30-day commitment hearing, to
19 be held within 72 hours. The court shall confirm an oral order in writing within 24
20 hours after it is issued.

21 (c) A person taken into custody for evaluation under this section may not be
22 placed in a jail or other correctional facility except for protective custody purposes and
23 only while awaiting transportation to an evaluation facility.

24 (d) A defendant charged with a felony offense against a person under
25 AS 11.41 or felony arson and found to be incompetent to proceed under AS 12.47.100
26 is rebuttably presumed to be mentally ill and to present a likelihood of serious harm to
27 self or others. In evaluating whether a defendant is likely to cause serious harm, the
28 court may consider as recent behavior the conduct with which the defendant was
29 originally charged.

30 (e) After a respondent is committed under this section, the division of the
31 Department of Law that has responsibility for civil cases shall provide records related

1 to evaluation, examination, and treatment of the respondent to the division of the
2 Department of Law that has responsibility for criminal cases.

3 * **Sec. 7.** AS 47.30.710(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) A respondent who is delivered under **AS 47.30.700 - 47.30.706**
5 [AS 47.30.700 - 47.30.705] to an evaluation facility for [EMERGENCY] examination
6 and treatment shall be examined and evaluated as to mental and physical condition by
7 a mental health professional and by a physician within 24 hours after arrival at the
8 facility.

9 * **Sec. 8.** AS 47.30.725 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

10 (g) If a criminal charge of a felony offense against a person under AS 11.41 or
11 felony arson against a respondent has been dismissed under AS 12.47.110 and the
12 respondent is detained for evaluation or committed under AS 47.30.700 - 47.30.915,
13 the Department of Law shall notify a victim in the dismissed criminal case

14 (1) of the time and place of a hearing under AS 47.30.700 - 47.30.915;

15 (2) of the length of time for which the respondent is committed and
16 findings of fact made by the court; and

17 (3) when the respondent is discharged from commitment.

18 (h) Subsection (g) of this section may not be construed to give a victim in a
19 dismissed criminal case access to a record that is confidential under AS 47.30.845.

20 * **Sec. 9.** AS 47.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

21 **Sec. 47.30.771. Additional five-year commitment.** (a) The respondent shall
22 be released from involuntary treatment at the expiration of 180 days unless the
23 professional person in charge or the attorney general's office files an additional 180-
24 day petition or a petition for a commitment of up to five years conforming to the
25 requirements of AS 47.30.740(a) except that all references to "30-day commitment"
26 shall be read as "the previous 180-day commitment" and all references to "90-day
27 commitment" shall be read as "five-year commitment."

28 (b) The procedures for service of the petition, notification of rights, and
29 judicial hearing shall be as set out in AS 47.30.740 - 47.30.750. Following a 180-day
30 commitment of a respondent, the court may order the respondent committed for an
31 additional treatment period not to exceed five years from the date on which the 180-

1 day treatment period would have expired if the court or jury finds by clear and
2 convincing evidence that

3 (1) the respondent is mentally ill and as a result is likely to cause
4 serious harm to self or others;

5 (2) the respondent has a criminal history that includes a felony offense
6 against a person under AS 11.41 or felony arson, including an offense for which the
7 respondent was found incompetent to stand trial under AS 12.47.100 and 12.47.110;

8 (3) the respondent has been found incompetent to stand trial under
9 AS 12.47.100 and 12.47.110 for a felony offense against a person under AS 11.41 or
10 felony arson; and

11 (4) commitment of the respondent for greater than 180 days but not
12 greater than five years is necessary to protect the public.

13 (c) Findings of fact relating to the respondent's behavior made at a 30-day
14 commitment hearing under AS 47.30.735, a 90-day commitment hearing under
15 AS 47.30.750, or a 180-day commitment hearing under AS 47.30.770 shall be
16 admitted as evidence and may not be rebutted except that newly discovered evidence
17 may be used for the purpose of rebutting the findings.

18 (d) Successive commitments are permissible on the same ground and under
19 the same procedures as the original commitment. An order of commitment may not
20 exceed five years.

21 (e) The department shall, by January 30 of each year, submit to the attorney
22 general, public defender, public advocate, Alaska Court System, and the attorney of
23 record for the respondent, if any, a report that details how many respondents are
24 committed under this section and how much time remains on each order of
25 commitment.

26 * **Sec. 10.** AS 47.30.780(a) is amended to read:

27 (a) Except as provided in (b) **and (c)** of this section, the professional person in
28 charge shall at any time discharge a respondent on the ground that the respondent is no
29 longer gravely disabled or likely to cause serious harm as a result of mental illness. A
30 certificate to this effect shall be sent to the court, which shall enter an order officially
31 terminating the involuntary commitment.

1 * **Sec. 11.** AS 47.30.780 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

2 (c) If a respondent committed under AS 47.30.770 or 47.30.771 has a criminal
3 history that includes a felony offense against a person under AS 11.41 or felony arson,
4 including an offense for which the respondent was found incompetent to stand trial
5 under AS 12.47.100 and 12.47.110, the professional person in charge may not
6 discharge the respondent under (a) of this section unless the court enters an order
7 officially terminating the involuntary commitment after a hearing. The respondent, the
8 professional person in charge, the prosecuting authority, and the respondent's attorney,
9 if applicable, shall appear at the hearing. If the prosecuting authority opposes
10 discharge, the court shall treat the matter as a petition for early discharge under (d) of
11 this section, notwithstanding a limitation imposed by (e) of this section.

12 (d) Except as provided in (e) of this section, a respondent committed under
13 AS 47.30.771 may petition the court for early discharge at any time during the
14 commitment. The court shall grant early discharge if the court finds by clear and
15 convincing evidence that, based on the respondent's ongoing medication or other
16 treatment, there is a factual and medical basis to believe the respondent is no longer
17 likely to cause serious harm to self or others.

18 (e) A respondent may not file a petition for early discharge within one year
19 after the date the court enters an initial commitment order or a final order ruling on a
20 previous petition for early discharge.

21 * **Sec. 12.** AS 47.30.805(a) is amended to read:

22 (a) Except as provided in (b) of this section,

23 (1) computations of a 72-hour [EVALUATION] period under
24 AS 47.30.706, 47.30.708, [AS 47.30.708] or 47.30.715 or a 48-hour [DETENTION]
25 period under AS 47.30.685 do not include Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays, or any
26 period of time necessary to transport the respondent to the treatment facility, except
27 that if the exclusion of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays from the computation
28 of a 72-hour evaluation period or 48-hour detention period would result in the
29 respondent being held for longer than 72 hours or 48 hours, as applicable, the period
30 ends at 5:00 p.m. on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

31 (2) a seven-day detention at a crisis residential center expires at the end

1 of the seventh day following the respondent's arrival at the crisis stabilization center or
2 the crisis residential center, whichever is earlier;

3 (3) a 30-day commitment period expires at the end of the 30th day
4 after the 72 hours following initial acceptance;

5 (4) a 90-day commitment period expires at the end of the 90th day
6 after the expiration of a 30-day period of treatment;

7 (5) a 180-day commitment period expires at the end of the 180th day,
8 after the expiration of a 90-day period of treatment or previous 180-day period,
9 whichever is applicable;

10 **(6) a five-year commitment period expires not later than five years**
11 **after the expiration of a 180-day period of treatment.**