

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE**

April 2, 2024

3:52 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator David Wilson, Chair  
Senator James Kaufman, Vice Chair  
Senator Forrest Dunbar  
Senator Cathy Giessel

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Senator Löki Tobin

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

HOUSE BILL NO. 57

"An Act relating to review organizations and permitting an emergency medical services provider to establish a review organization; and relating to patient records."

- SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD

HOUSE BILL NO. 344

"An Act relating to medical assistance demonstration projects established by the Department of Health."

- MOVED HB 344 OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 57

SHORT TITLE: EMERGENCY MED. SVCS: REVIEW ORGANIZATIONS

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) WRIGHT

02/03/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/03/23	(H)	L&C, HSS
02/17/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
02/17/23	(H)	Heard & Held
02/17/23	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
03/03/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/03/23	(H)	Moved HB 57 Out of Committee
03/03/23	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
03/06/23	(H)	L&C RPT 4DP 1NR

03/06/23 (H) DP: SADDLER, PRAX, RUFFRIDGE, SUMNER  
 03/06/23 (H) NR: CARRICK  
 03/21/23 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106  
 03/21/23 (H) Heard & Held  
 03/21/23 (H) MINUTE(HSS)  
 03/28/23 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106  
 03/28/23 (H) Moved HB 57 Out of Committee  
 03/28/23 (H) MINUTE(HSS)  
 03/29/23 (H) HSS RPT 5DP  
 03/29/23 (H) DP: RUFFRIDGE, SUMNER, FIELDS, MINA,  
 PRAX  
 05/09/23 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
 05/09/23 (H) VERSION: HB 57  
 05/10/23 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
 05/10/23 (S) L&C, HSS  
 02/12/24 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)  
 02/12/24 (S) Heard & Held  
 02/12/24 (S) MINUTE(L&C)  
 02/21/24 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)  
 02/21/24 (S) Moved HB 57 Out of Committee  
 02/21/24 (S) MINUTE(L&C)  
 02/23/24 (S) L&C RPT 4DP  
 02/23/24 (S) DP: BJORKMAN, DUNBAR, GRAY-JACKSON,  
 MERRICK  
 03/14/24 (S) HSS AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205  
 03/14/24 (S) Heard & Held  
 03/14/24 (S) MINUTE(HSS)  
 04/02/24 (S) HSS AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

BILL: HB 344

SHORT TITLE: MEDICAL ASSIST. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS  
 SPONSOR(s): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

02/20/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
 02/20/24 (H) HSS  
 02/29/24 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106  
 02/29/24 (H) Heard & Held  
 02/29/24 (H) MINUTE(HSS)  
 03/05/24 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106  
 03/05/24 (H) Moved HB 344 Out of Committee  
 03/05/24 (H) MINUTE(HSS)  
 03/06/24 (H) HSS RPT 7DP  
 03/06/24 (H) DP: FIELDS, SUMNER, RUFFRIDGE,  
 MCCORMICK, SADDLER, MINA, PRAX  
 03/18/24 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
 03/18/24 (H) VERSION: HB 344  
 03/19/24 (S) HSS AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

03/19/24 (S) <Pending Referral>  
03/20/24 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/20/24 (S) HSS  
04/02/24 (S) HSS AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

#### **WITNESS REGISTER**

EMILY RICCI, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Health  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided a brief overview of HB 344.

ANNE ZINK, M.D., Chief Medical Officer  
Department of Health  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided comments on HB 344.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[3:51:52 PM](#)

**CHAIR DAVID WILSON** called the Senate Health and Social Services Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:52 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Giessel, Dunbar, Kaufman, and Chair Wilson.

#### **HB 57-EMERGENCY MED. SVCS: REVIEW ORGANIZATIONS**

[3:52:19 PM](#)

CHAIR WILSON stated the committee would not hear HB 57 as scheduled as the Department of Law was making a correction to an amendment.

#### **HB 344-MEDICAL ASSIST. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS**

[3:52:53 PM](#)

CHAIR WILSON announced the consideration of HOUSE BILL NO. 344 "An Act relating to medical assistance demonstration projects established by the Department of Health."

CHAIR WILSON stated SB 241 was the companion bill to [HB 344].

[3:53:28 PM](#)

EMILY RICCI, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health, Anchorage, Alaska, provided a brief overview of HB 344. She thanked the committee for hearing HB 344 and SB 241, which give permission to the Department of Health to apply for a waiver with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The waivers allow DOH to explore the unmet needs of the most frequent users

of the services. The goal is to improve healthcare outcomes and the investments made in supporting their care.

[3:54:22 PM](#)

ANNE ZINK, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health, Anchorage, Alaska, expressed deep gratitude to the committee for hearing HB 344 and their effort in helping DOH achieve its mission of promoting the health, well-being, and self-sufficiency of Alaskans. HB 344 is a critical tool to help DOH manage Medicaid in Alaska.

[3:54:46 PM](#)

CHAIR WILSON found no further discussion and solicited the will of the committee.

[3:54:48 PM](#)

SENATOR KAUFMAN moved to report HB 344, work order 33-GH2517\A, from the committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[3:55:09 PM](#)

CHAIR WILSON found no objection and HB [344] was reported from the Senate Health and Social Services Standing Committee.

[3:56:01 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Wilson adjourned the Senate Health and Social Services Standing Committee meeting at 3:56 p.m.