

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MRS. RYAN

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 78

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4 TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act to authorize the Alaska Board of  
7 Health to contract with hospitals within  
8 Alaska and with such qualified specialists  
9 as are needed, for interim care of the  
10 mentally ill, and authorizing appropriation.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA:

12 Section 1. Definition. As used in this Act -

13 (a) The term "hospital" means a public, private, or  
14 federal hospital or institution or part thereof, equipped  
15 and otherwise qualified to provide short-term in-patient  
16 care and treatment for the mentally ill.

17 (b) The term "qualified specialist" means an individ-  
18 ual with special training in psychiatry, <sup>psychology</sup> psychology, and  
19 allied specialities.

20 (c) The term "mentally ill individual" means an in-  
21 dividual having a psychiatric or other disease which sub-  
22 stantially impairs his mental health or an individual who  
23 is mentally defective or mentally retarded.

24 Sec. 2. Intent of Act. The intent of this Act is to pro-  
25 vide mentally ill individuals with medical care and hospitaliza-  
26 tion within Alaska for the purpose of observation, diagnosis,  
27 and interim and short-term care. It is also intended to estab-  
28 lish a revolving fund to be used for the payment of such care  
29 and hospitalization as authorized in this Act. It is intended

1 that the payment of expenses for the care or treatment of a  
2 mentally ill individual shall be made to the revolving fund by  
3 the patient, or his legal representative, spouse, parents or  
4 adult children. Such payment shall be made in such manner and  
5 proportion as the Commissioner of Health, or his authorized rep-  
6 resentative, may find to be within their ability to pay.

7       Sec. 3. Contractual Authorization. The Board of Health,  
8 acting through the Commissioner of Health, is hereby authorized  
9 to enter into contracts with hospitals in Alaska and with such  
10 qualified specialists as are needed, for interim and short-term  
11 care of the mentally ill.

12       Sec. 4. Establishment of Revolving Fund. The funds appro-  
13 priated under this Act will serve as a revolving fund to be used  
14 by the Board of Health to support contract commitments.

15       Sec. 5. Repayment to Revolving Fund. It shall be the duty  
16 of a patient, or his legal representative, spouse, parents, adult  
17 children, in that sequence, to pay or contribute to the payment  
18 of the charges for the care or treatment of such patient in such  
19 manner and proportion as the Commissioner of Health, or his  
20 authorized representative may find to be within their ability to  
21 pay; provided, that such charges shall in no case exceed the  
22 actual cost of such care and treatment. Provided, however, that  
23 if any of the above named persons willfully conceal their ability  
24 to pay, the Commissioner of Health shall request an action to be  
25 filed by the Attorney General to compel payment, to the extent of  
26 their ability, charges accruing during the period of such con-  
27 cealment. The Commissioner of Health may cause to be made such  
28 investigations as may be necessary to determine such ability to  
29 pay, including the requirement of sworn statements of income by

1 such persons.

2       Sec. 6. Funds to carry out the provisions of this Act shall  
3 be provided in the general appropriation act of the Legislature.

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