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IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. JOSEPHSON

HOUSE BILL NO. 261

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act creating a state advisory council
for home and family."

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

* Section 1. The purpose of this Act is to provide for studies
and investigations of the critical conditions and trends which
seriously affect the family life of many of our citizens and
thereby tend to endanger the public health, welfare and morals.
These conditions and trends are reflected by

(1) statistics which indicate that ever increasing
amounts of public funds are expended annually to support families
which have become indigent because of marital disruption;

(2) nationwide surveys which show that 50 per cent of
our juvenile delinquents come from broken homes;

(3) prison studies which reveal that divorced persons
have a higher rate of criminal violations than do married persons.

* Sec. 2. AS 47 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

CHAPTER 40. HOME AND FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL

ARTICLE 1.

Sec. 47.40.010. HOME AND ADVISORY COUNCIL. There is
created in the Department of Health and Welfare the Home and
Family Advisory Council.

Sec. 47.40.020. COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT. The
council consists of nine members. One member is the chairman
of the senate judiciary committee or a member designated by



1 the chairman. One member is the chairman of the house
2 judiciary committee or a member designated by the chairman.
3 The following members shall be appointed by the governor and
4 preference given to persons who have demonstrated a special
5 and continuing interest in family problems:

- 6 (1) one superior court judge;
- 7 (2) two clergymen;
- 8 (3) one practicing attorney;
- 9 (4) one district or assistant district attorney;
- 10 (5) one state social worker;
- 11 (6) one representative of a voluntary social wel-
12 fare agency.

13 Sec. 47.40.030. TERM OF OFFICE. The term of office for
14 a member of the council is two years. A member appointed to
15 fill a vacancy serves for the unexpired term of the member he
16 succeeds.

17 Sec. 47.40.040. OFFICERS. At the first meeting of each
18 year, the council shall elect a chairman from among its
19 members.

20 Sec. 47.40.050. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES. Members of
21 the council are entitled to per diem and travel expenses
22 authorized by law for boards and commissions.

23 Sec. 47.40.060. QUORUM. A majority of the council con-
24 stitutes a quorum.

25 Sec. 47.40.070. MEETINGS. The council shall meet at
26 least four times a year. The meetings shall be held at the
27 call of the chairman or upon petition of five members. The
28 council may conduct public hearings to accomplish its duties.

29 Sec. 47.40.080. CONSULTING COMMITTEES. The advisory

1 council may appoint consulting committees of nonmembers to
2 advise on technical matters within the purview of council
3 studies and investigations.

4 Sec. 47.40.090. DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL. (a) The
5 advisory council shall:

6 (1) study the scope and operation of the laws of
7 this state and other states relating to marriage, actions
8 affecting marriages, and support of children and other
9 dependents, and examine supreme court decisions dealing with
10 marriage and the support of children;

11 (2) study the causes of family disintegration and
12 examine the need for future publicly and privately sponsored
13 programs, activities, services and facilities which would
14 tend to preserve and promote family unity and wholesome
15 family life with particular emphasis on premarital counseling
16 and the prevention of divorce;

17 (3) investigate the effect of divorce on public
18 assistance costs and programs and make recommendations for
19 changes in these programs for the purpose of reducing the
20 number of divorces in this state involving likely public
21 assistance recipients and the amount of welfare costs.

22 Sec. 47.40.100. ANNUAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS. The
23 council shall make an annual report on or before February 1
24 of each year to the governor and the legislature concerning
25 its findings and activities, including suggested legislation
26 on matters which are thought to need legislative attention.

27 Sec. 47.40.110. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE TO
28 ASSIST COUNCIL. The Department of Health and Welfare shall
29 furnish to the council the statistical and technical informa-

1 tion and clerical assistance which the council may require.
2 * Sec. 3. Upon initial appointment, five members of the
3 council serve for one year and four members serve for two years.
4 The governor shall call a meeting of the council within 30 days
5 after the effective date of this Act.

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