

Introduced: 3/19/67  
Referred: Health, Welfare  
and Education and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BANFIELD

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 305

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act creating the Office of Mental Retardation."

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

8 \* Section 1. AS 18 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

9 CHAPTER 7. OFFICE OF MENTAL RETARDATION.

10 Sec. 18.07.010. CREATION. There is an Office of Mental Retarda-  
11 tion created under the administrative direction of the commissioner.

12 Sec. 18.07.020. COORDINATOR FOR MENTAL RETARDATION PROGRAMS. The  
13 commissioner shall appoint a Coordinator for Mental Retardation Programs  
14 to be responsible for the carrying out of the objectives of this chapter.  
15 The coordinator shall be a professional person with knowledge and expe-  
16 rience in the field of mental retardation. He shall act in an advisory  
17 and consultive capacity to the commissioner and others in matters per-  
18 taining to mental retardations. The coordinator shall serve as a member  
19 of the Citizens Advisory Council and the State Agency Council in order  
20 to provide technical assistance, consultation, and liaison between the  
21 councils and the commissioner.

22 Sec. 18.07.030. REPORTS. The coordinator shall submit to the  
23 commissioner an annual and such interim reports as the commissioner  
24 requests concerning the progress, activities, and plans of the office.

25 Sec. 18.07.040. SPECIAL TASK FORCES. The coordinator may utilize  
26 the services of special task forces for special assignments. These  
27 task forces shall be appointed by the commissioner on the recommenda-  
28 tion of the coordinator and will serve only for the length of time  
29 necessary to complete a specific assignment or for a length of time

1 specified by the commissioner.

2 Sec. 18.07.050. CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL. A citizens Advisory  
3 Council to the Office of Mental Retardation, composed of ten members,  
4 shall be appointed by the Governor and shall meet at least once a year.

5 Sec. 18.07.060. CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL: ORGANIZATION AND  
6 MEMBERSHIP. (a) Members shall be appointed for a term of three years,  
7 except that initially one-third of the membership will be appointed  
8 for a term of one year, one-third for a term of two years, and the  
9 remaining one-third for a term of three years.

10 (b) The coordinator shall serve as executive secretary and a non-  
11 voting member.

12 (c) The membership shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and a  
13 secretary.

14 (d) The Citizens Advisory Council shall include, but not be  
15 limited to, representation from the State Native Associations, the  
16 Military Forces, Associations for Retarded Children, Alaska Methodist  
17 University, Alaska Native Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
18 State Council of Churches, Alaska Rehabilitation Association, Alaska  
19 Crippled Children's Association, and Alaska Medical Association.

20 (e) The Citizens Advisory Council shall concern itself with the  
21 broad field of mental retardation, but will address itself to problems  
22 in specific areas such as prevention, health care, preschool services,  
23 educational services, job training, employment, recreation, religious  
24 nurture, research, manpower development, evaluation and counseling  
25 needs, protective services, personal care in own home, foster homes,  
26 group homes, nursing homes and residential care.

27 (f) The Citizens Advisory Council shall support and provide a  
28 channel for the interpretation of the mental retardation program,  
29 interpret public reaction to the program, advise of unmet need and

1 stimulate activity to meet the need. It shall make recommendations  
2 for improvement in the state plan to the coordinator in all areas of  
3 program planning and concern.

4 Sec. 18.07.070. STATE AGENCY COUNCIL. (a) A State Agency Council  
5 shall be formed by the governor and shall include, but not be limited  
6 to, representation from the following departments, divisions, branches,  
7 or other units:

- 8 (1) Office of Economic Opportunity  
9 (2) Department of Education  
10 (A) division of instructional services  
11 (B) division of vocational education  
12 (C) division of vocational rehabilitation  
13 (3) Department of Health and Welfare  
14 (A) division of public welfare  
15 (B) division of public health  
16 (C) branch of child health  
17 (D) branch of nursing  
18 (E) division of mental health  
19 (F) youth and adult authority  
20 (G) office of the aging  
21 (H) office of mental retardation  
22 (I) health and welfare facilities  
23 (4) Department of Labor  
24 (A) division of employment security  
25 (5) Department of Law  
26 (6) Department of Administration  
27 (A) division of personnel  
28 (7) University of Alaska  
29 (8) Department of Public Safety

1 (b) The coordinator shall serve as chairman of this council. A  
2 secretary shall be elected.

3 Sec. 18.07.080. MEETINGS AND FUNCTIONS. The State Agency Council  
4 shall meet at least six times a year. The following are the functions  
5 of the State Agency Council:

6 (1) make possible the maximum utilization of existing state  
7 programs for the benefit of the mentally retarded;

8 (2) consider means of strengthening generic services;

9 (3) seek ways of providing a comprehensive program with  
10 avoidance of duplication of services;

11 (4) consider efficient use of existing manpower;

12 (5) consider means of developing needed manpower resources;

13 (6) consider, develop, and execute a plan for coordination  
14 of state efforts in behalf of the mentally retarded between state,  
15 federal and private agencies providing services;

16 (7) individual members will keep the coordinator and other  
17 council members informed on matters relating to the programs adminis-  
18 tered by their respective departments;

19 (8) individual members will assist in interpreting the program  
20 of the Office of Mental Retardation to their departmental colleagues.

21 Sec. 18.07.090. FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF MENTAL RETARDATION.  
22 The functions of the Office of Mental Retardation are the following;

23 (1) to develop a comprehensive coordinated state plan to in-  
24 clude all services and programs for the mentally retarded which will make  
25 economical and maximum use of funds and manpower available and shall

26 (A) be developed by the coordinator after consultation  
27 with appropriate individuals, agencies, committees and councils;

28 (B) include definition of responsibility for accom-  
29 plishing each portion of the plan and will recommend needed

1 amounts and sources of funding;

2 (C) be distributed appropriately for purposes of  
3 information and to serve as a guide;

4 (D) be revised as needed with the procedures for  
5 revision the same as for the development of the plan;

6 (2) to keep abreast of latest developments in the field and  
7 in areas that relate, throughout the nation and within the state by

8 (A) securing latest publications in the field;

9 (B) maintaining lines of communication with pertinent  
10 federal, state and private agencies and associations;

11 (C) securing information from members of the State  
12 Agency Council and Citizens Advisory Council;

13 (D) attending seminars, workshops and conferences at  
14 federal and state levels as appropriate and as funding permits;

15 (3) to collect information, facts, statistics, and other  
16 special studies pertinent to the subject of mental retardation through

17 (A) pertinent information and statistics from resources  
18 such as the federal government, agencies of state government, and  
19 community agencies as appropriate;

20 (B) analysis of facts and statistics or the making of  
21 special studies of particular facets of the problem;

22 (4) to provide for a mutual exchange of ideas and informa-  
23 tion at national, state, regional and community levels by

24 (A) preparing and distributing information materials  
25 such as reports, special studies, and information received;

26 (B) remaining in direct contact with agencies, associa-  
27 tions and individuals through consultation and participation in  
28 conferences, seminars and other such techniques;

29 (5) to develop and maintain or expand cooperative working

1 relationships with federal, state and private agencies and associations  
2 by

3 (A) development of mutual understanding and respect;

4 (B) delineation of mutual goals;

5 (6) to encourage and assist in the development of comprehen-  
6 sive, coordinated services in communities by

7 (A) encouraging, stimulating and informing communities  
8 of the need to establish a local council or committee on mental  
9 retardation, either as a separate body or as an arm of an estab-  
10 lished organization, through consultation, distribution of  
11 educational materials to individuals and groups;

12 (B) continuing and expanding working relationship with  
13 agencies outside the department, both federal, state and local;

14 (C) utilizing all resources available to translate  
15 planning into action;

16 (D) developing effective communication;

17 (7) to cooperate with public and private agencies to promote  
18 coordination of existing programs and the development of needed services  
19 by

20 (A) including representatives of such agencies in  
21 committees and councils at the state and community levels in a  
22 planning and advisory capacity;

23 (B) providing consultative services;

24 (8) to serve in an advisory capacity in regard to new legis-  
25 lation for mental retardation by

26 (A) educating the public and professionals of the  
27 provision of this service and of the many facets to be considered  
28 in the preparation of legislation;

29 (B) obtaining consultation in regard to proposed legis-

1 lation with professionals or groups having an interest in the  
2 field, and with those who will have the responsibility for  
3 administration of the proposed legislation;

4 (C) providing consultation and recommendations  
5 following thorough study;

6 (9) to serve in an advisory capacity for the obtaining of  
7 grants by state or private agencies which relate to mental retardation  
8 and which must receive approval within the department by

9 (A) consulting with the requesting body concerning  
10 grant proposals;

11 (B) reviewing project proposals and make recommenda-  
12 tions to approving authority;

13 (10) to serve as liaison on matters relating to mental  
14 retardation between departments and units of state government and  
15 federal, state and community agencies, associations, and individuals by

16 (A) interpreting state programs to federal and private  
17 agencies;

18 (B) obtaining information concerning the programs of  
19 federal and private programs;

20 (11) to develop and coordinate public and professional  
21 educational programs relative to mental retardation by

22 (A) being alert to specific educational lacks relative  
23 to mental retardation and prepare or stimulate preparation of  
24 public educational media through use of T.V., news releases,  
25 radio and addresses;

26 (B) providing educational materials to pertinent  
27 professionals;

28 (C) keeping advised about and disseminating information  
29 concerning pertinent seminars and training resources to professionals

and stimulate attendance;

(D) stimulating the inclusion of educational information concerning mental retardation in courses at the secondary and elementary school level;

(E) stimulating the inclusion of mental retardation materials in curricula at the higher educational level in the preparation of courses for the helping professions;

(F) providing consultation to those providing in-service training relative to programs or services to the mentally retarded;

(G) stimulating postprofessional training to meet the manpower needs in programs for the mentally retarded through securing and appropriately disseminating information concerning grants, stipends, and resources available for postprofessional training in this field;

(12) to recommend priorities in the development of programs for the mentally retarded as determined by the advice of the State Agency Council and the Citizens Advisory Council and the availability of manpower and financial resources;

(13) to evaluate the effectiveness of the program of the office and the development of the state plan, with appropriate reporting by using the following indices: the extent of the use of the office as a source of information and consultation, the evidence of strengthened programs as statistically revealed, the development of new programs and their effectiveness in communities, and the evidence of increased public understanding and interest;

(14) to evaluate existing programs and resources against the existing needs and the readiness of the communities to develop or expand programs through work with appropriate public and private agencies and organizations, and through encouraging the development

1 and expansion of needed programs by the provision of consultative,  
2 informational, technical services and assistance in coordinating  
3 community programs.

4 Sec. 18.07.100. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

- 5 (1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department  
6 of Health and Welfare;  
7 (2) "department" means the Department of Health and Welfare;  
8 (3) "office" means the Office of Mental Retardation;  
9 (4) "coordinator" means the coordinator of Mental Retarda-  
10 tion Programs.

11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29