

Introduced: 2/14/72
Referred: Health, Welfare &
Education and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ROSE, BRADNER, CHANCE
AND GUESS

CS
2 HOUSE BILL NO. 651

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Alaska Office of Early Child-
7 hood Development."

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

9 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

10 (1) there exists a demand within the state for day care and pre-
11 primary educational opportunities for children and lay and expert opinions
12 hold that the availability of preprimary learning experience in small
13 groups can be a significant and positive factor in the development of adult
14 personality, talent and character;

15 (2) too little is known about the optimum type and content of
16 such experience and in fact realizes that there may be no optimum, but rather
17 a need for a variety of programs tailored to fit the needs of children from
18 diverse backgrounds;

19 (3) because Alaska is geographically remote from major United
20 States population centers where much existing research is in process in
21 the field of early childhood development, it is vital that Alaska provide
22 various, diverse models for day care and preprimary education and that
23 there needs to be established a clearinghouse for the exchange of informa-
24 tion and ideas, and periodic state conferences on early childhood development,
25 and that progress be made toward periodic evaluation of model projects in
26 this field; and

27 (4) availability of preprimary day care centers and learning
28 centers will permit more parents to participate in the economic life of the
29 community, will thus make available new talent in our economic life, and

1 will relieve some households from a cycle of economic dependency upon govern-
2 ment.

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

4 CHAPTER 45. ALASKA OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT.

5 Sec. 47.45.010. ALASKA OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT.

6 There is created in the Office of the Governor the Alaska Office of
7 Early Childhood Development. The Office of Early Childhood Develop-
8 ment is administered by a director appointed by the governor with the
9 concurrence of the Advisory Board for Early Childhood Development.
10 Staff may be employed in accordance with appropriate budgets.

11 Sec. 47.45.020. ADVISORY BOARD FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT.

12 There is created an Advisory Board for Early Childhood Development.
13 The board consists of 13 members appointed by the governor and serving
14 at his pleasure. In making his appointments the governor shall appoint
15 nine members of the Day Care Advisory Committee and four members of
16 the State 4C Committee.

17 Sec. 47.45.030. POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD AND DIRECTOR. (a)

18 The Advisory Board for Early Childhood Development shall advise the
19 director in determining policy and establishing program priorities.

20 (b) The director shall

21 (1) identify available funding sources for day care and
22 educational centers;

23 (2) administer grants the legislature may from time to time
24 appropriate for educational or day care programs at the elementary
25 level, as well as act as the state agency for administering federal
26 funds from grants and contracts that may become available;

27 (3) provide an informational clearinghouse for parents
28 and communities wishing to start providing local day care or preprimary
29 educational service on a nonprofit or cooperative basis;

1 (4) provide technical assistance to local communities,
2 school boards, citizen groups, nonprofit corporations, community action
3 agencies, and other similar groups with respect to early childhood
4 training;

5 (5) at least biennially, conduct a statewide Governor's
6 Conference on Early Childhood Development; and

7 (6) submit to the legislature an annual report, including
8 recommendations for possible legislation pertaining to elementary
9 children.

10 Sec. 47.45.040. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES. Members of the Ad-
11 visory Board for Early Childhood Development receive no salary, but
12 are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized by law for
13 other boards and commissions.

14 Sec. 47.45.050. DEPARTMENTS TO ASSIST OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
15 DEVELOPMENT. The Department of Health and Social Services and the
16 Department of Education shall furnish technical assistance and person-
17 nel, if available, to the Office of Early Childhood Development upon
18 request.
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