

Original sponsors: Rose, Bradner, Chance
and Guess

Offered: 4/19/72
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, WELFARE AND
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR 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 Child
7 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 development oppor-
11 tunities for children and lay and expert opinions hold that the availability
12 of child development experience can be a significant and positive factor in
13 the development of adult personality, talent and character;

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

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

25 (4) availability of child development programs will permit more
26 parents to participate in the economic life of the community, will thus
27 make available new talent in our economic life, and will relieve some house-
28 holds from a cycle of economic dependency upon government.

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

1 CHAPTER 45. ALASKA OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

2 Sec. 47.45.010. ALASKA OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT. There is
3 created in the Office of the Governor the Alaska Office of Child
4 Development to act as a coordinating body for services for children
5 from prenatal to age 18. The Office of Child Development is adminis-
6 tered by a director appointed by the board of directors with the
7 approval of the governor. Staff may be employed in accordance with
8 appropriate budgets.

9 Sec. 47.45.020. BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE OFFICE OF CHILD
10 DEVELOPMENT. There is created a board of directors for the Office of
11 Child Development. The board consists of the State 4C Committee plus
12 four youthful members not more than 18 years of age appointed by the
13 governor for a term of two years each, or until the youthful member
14 attains the age of 19 years.

15 Sec. 47.45.030. POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD AND DIRECTOR. (a)
16 The board of directors for the Office of Child Development shall
17 determine policy and establish program priorities, and shall serve as
18 a child advocacy agency in the state. The board shall

19 (1) coordinate public and private programs and priorities
20 which affect child development;

21 (2) develop guidelines to improve child development services
22 throughout the state, and coordinate the development of program stan-
23 dards and the training of paraprofessionals and professional personnel
24 and to monitor and evaluate procedures;

25 (3) assist local communities in the initiation of child
26 development programs including information about pertinent legislation
27 and funding and consultant resources;

28 (4) identify, coordinate and develop a comprehensive plan
29 for the use of public and private resources, including the services

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of volunteers;

(5) provide leadership in recommending legislative change which affects the provision of child development services;

(6) develop innovative approaches for involving parent-consumers on both the state and local level in program planning and policy making.

(b) The director shall carry out the policies and programs set out by the board of directors.

Sec. 47.45.040. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES. Members of the board of directors for the Office of Child Development receive no salary, but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized by law for other boards and commissions.

Sec. 47.45.050. DEPARTMENTS TO ASSIST OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT. The Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and all other departments and agencies of the state which have programs or services pertaining to children shall cooperate with the Office of Child Development and shall furnish technical assistance and personnel, if available, to the Office of Child Development upon request.