

Original sponsor: Josephson

Offered: 3/30/71
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, WELFARE
AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 118

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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 Office of Child Advocacy."

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

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

9 (1) there is a need to build public response to the problems con-
10 fronting Alaska's population, specifically young people, so that maximum
11 community and human resources are mobilized to provide services for youth and
12 to assure them their full rights as human beings;

13 (2) there exists a demand within the state for development oppor-
14 tunities for children and lay and expert opinions hold that the availability
15 of child development experience can be a significant and positive factor in
16 the development of adult personality, talent and character;

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

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

28 (5) availability of child development programs will permit more
29 parents to participate in the economic life of the community, will thus make

1 available new talent in our economic life, and will relieve some households
2 from a cycle of economic dependency upon government.

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

4 CHAPTER 45. OFFICE OF CHILD ADVOCACY.

5 Sec. 47.45.010. OFFICE OF CHILD ADVOCACY. There is created in the
6 Office of the Governor the Office of Child Advocacy to act as a coordin-
7 ating body for services for children from prenatal to age 18. The Office
8 of Child Advocacy is administered by a director appointed by the board of
9 directors with the approval of the governor. Staff may be employed in
10 accordance with appropriate budgets.

11 Sec. 47.45.020. BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE OFFICE OF CHILD
12 ADVOCACY. There is created a board of directors for the Office of Child
13 Advocacy. The board consists of the Alaska State Council on the Coordin-
14 ation of Community Child Care plus four members not more than 18 years
15 of age appointed by the governor for a term of two years each, or until
16 the youthful member attains the age of 19 years.

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

21 (1) coordinate public and private programs and priorities
22 which affect children and child development;

23 (2) develop guidelines to improve children and child develop-
24 ment services throughout the state, including the development of program
25 standards, training for paraprofessionals and professional personnel and
26 and monitoring and evaluation procedures;

27 (3) assist local communities in the initiation of children and
28 child development programs including information about pertinent legisla-
29 tion and funding and consultant resources;

1 (4) identify, coordinate and develop a comprehensive plan for
2 the use of public and private resources, including the services of
3 volunteers;

4 (5) provide leadership in recommending legislative change
5 which affects the provision of children and child development services;
6 review existing state policies as they relate to, and affect the legal
7 status and well-being of children;

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

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

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

17 Sec. 47.45.045. AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER FUNDS.

18 The Office of Child Advocacy may administer grants the legislature
19 may from time to time appropriate for educational or day care programs
20 not otherwise funded by the state, and has the authority to act as an
21 agency for disbursing federal funds for educational or day care programs.
22 Nothing in this section shall be construed to be in derogation of the
23 provisions of Chapter 95, SLA 1971.

24 Sec. 47.45.050. DEPARTMENTS TO ASSIST OFFICE OF CHILD ADVOCACY. The
25 Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Education,
26 the Department of Labor and all other departments and agencies of the
27 state which have programs or services pertaining to children shall coop-
28 erate with the Office of Child Advocacy and shall furnish technical
29 assistance and personnel, if available, upon request.