

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY FRITZ BY REQUEST

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 285

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act providing for a definition of medical and
7 legal death."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 09.70 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 09.70.015. DEFINITION OF DEATH. A person is considered
11 medically and legally dead if, in the opinion of a medical doctor
12 licensed or exempt from licensing under AS 08.64, based on ordinary
13 standards of medical practice, there is no spontaneous respiratory or
14 cardiac function and there is no expectation of recovery of spontaneous
15 respiratory or cardiac function or, in the case when respiratory and
16 cardiac functions are maintained by artificial means, a person is
17 considered medically and legally dead if, in the opinion of a medical
18 doctor licensed or exempt from licensing under AS 08.64, based on
19 ordinary standards of medical practice, there is no spontaneous brain
20 function. Provided an electroencephalograph record indicates no
21 spontaneous brain function, death may be pronounced in this circum-
22 stance before artificial means of maintaining respiratory and cardiac
23 function are terminated.