

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST  
OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
CARE, SOCIAL SERVICES AND MENTAL  
HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE BILL NO. 334

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act qualifying maximum amount of assistance payable  
7 under public assistance to conform to Office of Econ-  
8 omic Opportunity poverty guidelines."

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

10 \* Section 1. AS 47.25.130 is amended to read:

11 Sec. 47.25.130. AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE. The amount of assistance  
12 for a needy person shall be determined by the department with regard to  
13 the resources and needs of the person and the conditions existing in  
14 each case. Where possible, assistance shall be sufficient to provide  
15 the applicant with reasonable subsistence according to standards of  
16 assistance established by the department. However, the amount of  
17 assistance for subsistence needs may not exceed \$80 a person a calendar  
18 month unless that amount is less than the Office of Economic Opportunity  
19 poverty guidelines for the state, in which case the maximum amount pay-  
20 able does not apply.

21 \* Sec. 2. AS 47.25.320(b) is amended to read:

22 (b) The monetary maximums in (a) of this section do not apply  
23 (1) to payments made under this program for the care of a  
24 dependent child in a foster family home; [. THE PAYMENT SHALL CONFORM  
25 TO FOSTER CARE RATES AS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.]  
26 (2) if the amount is less than the Office of Economic Oppor-  
27 tunity poverty guidelines for the state.

28 \* Sec. 3. AS 47.25.640 is amended to read:

29 Sec. 47.25.640. AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE. The department shall

1 determine the amount of assistance granted for a needy blind person with  
2 due regard to the resources and needs of the person and the conditions  
3 existing in each case. Assistance shall be sufficient to provide the  
4 applicant with reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and  
5 health, and according to the standards of assistance established by the  
6 department. However, assistance may not exceed \$250 a calendar month  
7 unless that amount is less than the Office of Economic Opportunity  
8 poverty guidelines for the state, in which case the maximum amount pay-  
9 able does not apply. Direct payments for medical services and remedial  
10 care may not be considered in determining the maximum amount payable.

11 \* Sec. 4. AS 47.25.810 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 47.25.810. AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE. The amount of assistance  
13 for a permanently and totally disabled person shall be determined by the  
14 department with regard to the resources and needs of the person and the  
15 conditions existing in each case. Where possible, assistance shall be  
16 sufficient to provide reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and  
17 health and according to the standards of assistance established by the  
18 department. However, the amount of assistance may not exceed \$250 a  
19 calendar month unless that amount is less than the Office of Economic  
20 Opportunity poverty guidelines for the state, in which case the maximum  
21 amount payable does not apply. Direct payments for medical services and  
22 remedial care may not be considered in determining the maximum amount  
23 payable.

24 \* Sec. 5. AS 47.25 is amended by adding a new section to read:

25 ARTICLE 8. STANDARDS FOR ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.

26 Sec. 47.25.995. MINIMUM AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE. (a) All public  
27 assistance payments authorized under this chapter shall be no less than  
28 the federally established Office of Economic Opportunity poverty guide-  
29 lines for the state.

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(b) To the extent that any maximums are established by statute to limit the amount payable under a program authorized in this chapter, they do not apply so long as they are below the minimums required in (a) of this section.