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Finance

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1 IN THE SENATE

2 HCS CS SENATE BILL NO. 120 Am

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to day care facilities; and providing
7 for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. FINDINGS OF FACT; PURPOSE. The legislature finds that a
10 need exists in the state for the provision of adequate day care facilities
11 for families with low income, who either do not qualify for or choose not to
12 receive aid to families with dependent children. Adequate child care
13 facilities allow the parent or guardian to work outside the home and in
14 many cases to avoid the need for welfare and other forms of public assistance.
15 The purpose of this Act is to establish in the Department of Community and
16 Regional Affairs a program to aid low income families in urban and rural
17 areas of the state in providing adequate care for their children.

18 * Sec. 2. AS 44.47 is amended by adding new sections to read:

19 ARTICLE 6. DAY CARE ASSISTANCE.

20 Sec. 44.47.180. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The department shall

21 (1) implement and administer a program to aid in the provision
22 of day care for the children of low income families according to the
23 requirements of secs. 180 - 240 of this chapter;

24 (2) establish standards of eligibility for day care benefits;

25 (3) contract with day care facilities for the care of
26 children of eligible families;

27 (4) establish procedures to periodically review the needs of
28 families receiving day care benefits.

29 (b) The department may adopt regulations necessary for the per-

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1 formance of its duties under secs. 180 - 240 of this chapter.

2 Sec. 44.47.200. CONDITIONS OF RECEIPT OF BENEFITS. Benefits may
3 be paid for the care of children of a low income family only if a parent
4 or guardian, because of the day care, is freed to work or to attend
5 school.

6 Sec. 44.47.210. ELIGIBILITY OF FAMILIES FOR BENEFITS. The depart-
7 ment shall determine the eligibility of families for day care benefits
8 on the basis of the following factors:

9 (1) net income of the family including salary, alimony, child
10 support, retirement benefits, social security, and any other source of
11 income;

12 (2) number of children in the family;

13 (3) whether there is one parent or guardian solely responsible
14 for the care of the family;

15 (4) other factors found relevent by the department.

16 Sec. 44.47.220. CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN. The depart-
17 ment shall develop a sliding fee scale based on the factors listed in
18 sec. 210 of this chapter for purposes of determining the amount to be
19 contributed by the parent or guardian for child care. The contribution
20 of the parent or guardian shall be paid to the department.

21 Sec. 44.47.230. PAYMENT TO CHILD CARE FACILITIES. (a) The depart-
22 ment will contract with the day care facility selected by the parent or
23 guardian for the care of the children;

24 (b) Benefits shall be paid by the department directly to the
25 facility providing the child care; payments shall be made promptly upon
26 receipt of a billing from a facility.

27 Sec. 44.47.240. DEFINITIONS. In secs. 180 - 230 of this chapter

28 (1) "day care facility" means a center or home licensed by
29 the Department of Health and Social Services for the care of children

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while the parent or guardian is working or in school;

(2) "department" means the Department of Community and Regional Affairs;

(3) "child" means a person up to and including five years of age.

* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.070(c).

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