

Original sponsor: McKinnon

Offered: 4/27/79  
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 412

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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A BILL

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For an Act entitled: "An Act providing for minimum standards for hospital care."

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

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\* Section 1. AS 18.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

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Sec. 18.20.072. MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE. (a) Not later than 60 days after the effective date of this Act, each hospital shall provide for the services of a hospital attending physician who shall

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(1) provide emergency medical services to a patient of the hospital or person seeking assistance from the hospital for an injury or illness;

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(2) monitor hospital patients who are under intensive care, who are critically or seriously ill, or who are recovering from surgery, at reasonably frequent intervals; and

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(3) respond to a call for assistance from an attending physician, nurse or other provider of health care services at the hospital when, in the opinion of the physician, nurse or health care provider, the patient's life is endangered or the patient's health changes significantly and the services of the physician are needed.

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(b) In a hospital which has 40 or more beds which are principally used for inpatient medical or surgical care or treatment of acute illness or injury, a hospital attending physician shall be on duty at all times. In a hospital which has fewer than 40 beds which are principally used for inpatient medical or surgical care or treatment of acute illness or injury, a hospital attending physician shall be on duty or on

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1 call in the near vicinity of the hospital at all times. For purposes of  
2 this section, a "hospital attending physician" is a person licensed to  
3 practice medicine under AS 08.64, who may be a member of the medical  
4 staff of the hospital or may be employed by the hospital.

5 (c) A member of the board of directors of a hospital or a hospital  
6 administrator who fails or refuses to provide for the services of a  
7 hospital attending physician in the manner required by this section is  
8 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of  
9 not more than \$1,000. Each day that the violation continues constitutes  
10 a separate offense.

11 (d) Within 15 days of receiving a complaint regarding failure or  
12 refusal of a hospital attending physician to perform as required by (a)  
13 of this section, the board of directors of the hospital or hospital  
14 administrator shall file with the State Medical Board a copy of the  
15 complaint and a detailed report of the circumstances which are the basis  
16 of the alleged failure or refusal.

17 \* Sec. 2. AS 08.64.380(3) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to  
18 read:

19 (I) the wilful failure or refusal of a physician to  
20 perform the duties of a hospital attending physician for the pur-  
21 poses described in AS 18.20.072 when required to do so by a hospi-  
22 tal.