

Introduced: 1/16/79
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services and Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

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SENATE BILL NO. 33

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

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For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the inspection of hospitals and
7 their functions; and providing for an effective
8 date."

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

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* Section 1. AS 18.20.080(a) is amended to read:

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Sec. 18.20.080. INSPECTIONS; SUBMISSION OF PLANS [INSPECTION AND
12 CONSULTATION] FOR ALTERATIONS. (a) The department shall make annual
13 inspections and investigations of all hospital facilities and functions
14 it is required by secs. 10 - 130 of this chapter to regulate. Addi-
15 tional inspections may be made when necessary to determine compliance
16 with department standards. The department shall adopt regulations
17 setting out inspection procedures in detail, including a description of
18 the circumstances in which an inspection in addition to the annual
19 one may be considered necessary, and the procedural safeguards which
20 must accompany it.

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* Sec. 2. AS 18.20.085(a) is amended to read:

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(a) Unless specified otherwise by the department a hospital
23 shall retain and preserve records which relate directly to the care
24 and treatment of a patient for a period of seven years following the
25 discharge of the patient. However, the records of a patient under 18
26 [19] years of age shall be kept until at least two years after the
27 patient has reached the age of 18 [19] years or until seven years
28 following the discharge of the patient, whichever is longer. Records
29 consisting of X-ray film are required to be retained for five years.

1 * Sec. 3. AS 18.20.085(b) is amended to read:

2 (b) The department shall by regulation define the types of
3 records and the information required to be included in the records
4 retained and preserved under (a) of this section and set out a detailed
5 procedure for an inspection process to assure that the records are
6 complete. Medical records from which a patient can be identified may
7 be examined by the department only if the patient has granted written
8 consent as to them. The regulations may require hospitals to offer
9 patients who have not already signed information release forms the
10 opportunity to consent to the inspection of their records by only
11 department surveyors in connection with licensing the facility. The
12 regulations may also set statewide limits on the percentage of the
13 total number of records which surveyors may examine in any hospital. The
14 department may by regulation specify records and information to be
15 retained for longer periods than those set out in (a) of this section.

16 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
17 10.070(c).