

Introduced: 3/8/79
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services and Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY COLLETTA, STIMSON
AND HOHMAN

2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 227

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to insurance for alcoholism and drug
7 dependence; and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 21.42 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 21.42.347. REQUIRED PROVISION OF COVERAGE FOR ALCOHOLISM AND
11 DRUG DEPENDENCE. (a) Group health insurance policies providing
12 coverage on an expense-incurred basis and group service or indemnity
13 type contracts issued by a nonprofit corporation

14 (1) shall provide coverage for alcoholism and drug dependence
15 to include

16 (A) inpatient detoxification benefits for not less than
17 14 days of benefit each calendar year in a state-approved treatment
18 facility or licensed hospital; payment of institutional and profes-
19 sional benefits shall be equal to and payable as any other covered
20 condition;

21 (B) inpatient treatment coverage benefits for not less
22 than 30 days of benefit each calendar year in a state-approved
23 treatment hospital; payment of institutional and professional
24 benefits shall be at the same level as any other covered condition;
25 and

26 (C) outpatient treatment coverage benefits of not less
27 than 30 visits each calendar year if treatment is provided by a
28 licensed physician, state-approved treatment program, or state-
29 certified professional substance abuse counselor; coverage shall

1 include individual, family or group therapy; benefits shall be paid
2 at not less than 75 per cent of the usual, customary and reasonable
3 charge for a medical procedure, treatment or service in the geo-
4 graphic area;

5 (2) may not exclude dependents otherwise covered and may not
6 limit coverage for alcoholism or drug dependence because of age, sex or
7 state of illness;

8 (3) may not apply preexisting or named condition exclusions
9 to deny coverage for alcoholism or drug dependence; and

10 (4) may require a physician's certification of necessity as a
11 condition of payment for alcoholism or drug dependence treatment.

12 (b) In this section,

13 (1) "alcoholism" means an illness or condition characterized
14 by the habitual lack of self control in the use of alcoholic beverages
15 to the extent that health is substantially impaired or endangered, or
16 social or economic function is substantially disrupted;

17 (2) "drug dependence" means the condition of being physically
18 or psychologically addicted to an opiate, opiate derivative, tranquil-
19 izer, amphetamine, barbiturate, or similar substance, but excluding
20 nicotine, caffeine and alcohol;

21 (3) "state" means any state in the United States and includes
22 the District of Columbia.

23 * Sec. 2. AS 21.87.340 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

24 (17) AS 21.42.347.

25 * Sec. 3. The provisions of sec. 1 of this Act apply to all group poli-
26 cies or contracts delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state
27 after the effective date of this Act. A policy or contract delivered, issued
28 for delivery, or renewed after the effective date of this Act shall be con-
29 sidered to provide the minimum coverage required by sec. 1 of this Act even

1 if the language of the policy or contract does not so specifically provide.

2 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect November 1, 1979.

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