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and Hohman

Offered: 4/26/79  
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR 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 for employees of the state and its political  
8 subdivisions."

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

10 \* Section 1. AS 39.30.090(1) is amended to read:

11 (1) A group insurance policy shall provide one or more of the  
12 following benefits: life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment  
13 insurance, weekly indemnity insurance, hospital expense insurance,  
14 surgical expense insurance, dental expense insurance, audio-visual  
15 insurance, alcoholism and drug dependency insurance, or other medical  
16 care insurance.

17 \* Sec. 2. AS 39.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

18 Sec. 39.30.092. COVERAGE FOR ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE. (a)

19 The group insurance policy required by AS 39.30.090(1)

20 (1) shall provide coverage for alcoholism and drug dependence  
21 to include

22 (A) inpatient detoxification benefits for not less than  
23 14 days of benefit each calendar year in a state-approved treatment  
24 facility or licensed hospital; payment of institutional and profes-  
25 sional benefits shall be equal to and payable as any other covered  
26 condition, except a covered condition which, by the terms of the  
27 policy, has an internal restriction;

28 (B) inpatient treatment coverage benefits for not less  
29 than 30 days of benefit each calendar year in a state-approved

1 treatment program; payment of institutional and professional bene-  
2 fits shall be at the same level as any other covered condition,  
3 except a covered condition which, by the terms of the policy, has  
4 an internal restriction; and

5 (C) outpatient treatment coverage benefits of not less  
6 than 30 visits each calendar year if treatment is provided by a  
7 licensed physician, state-approved treatment program, or state-  
8 certified professional substance abuse counselor; coverage shall  
9 include individual, family or group therapy; benefits shall be paid  
10 at not less than 75 per cent of the usual, customary and reasonable  
11 charge for a medical procedure, treatment or service in the geo-  
12 graphic area;

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

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

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

20 (b) The provisions of this section apply to group health insurance  
21 contracts and group service or indemnity type contracts issued to pro-  
22 vide coverage for employees of the state and may apply to contracts for  
23 the benefit of employees of other participating governmental units only  
24 if the governing body of the governmental unit elects to have the provi-  
25 sions apply.

26 (c) In this section,

27 (1) "alcoholism" means an illness or condition characterized  
28 by the habitual lack of self control in the use of alcoholic beverages,  
29 or use of alcoholic beverages to the extent that health is substantially

1 impaired or endangered, or social or economic function is substantially  
2 disrupted;

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

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

9 \* Sec. 3. AS 39.30.100 is amended to read:

10 Sec. 39.30.100. DEFINITIONS. In AS 39.30.090 - 39.30.100 [AS 39.-  
11 30.090]

12 (1) "eligible employee" means

13 (A) an employee who has served in permanent full-time or  
14 part-time employment with the same governmental unit for 30 days or  
15 more, except an emergency or temporary employee, and

16 (B) an elected or appointed official of a governmental  
17 unit, effective upon taking the oath of office;

18 (2) "governmental unit" means the state, a borough, municipal  
19 corporation, or other political subdivision of the state, and the North  
20 Pacific Fishery Management Council;

21 (3) "insurance", "insurance carrier" and "insurance policy"  
22 include health care services, health care service contractors and con-  
23 tracts.

24 \* Sec. 4. The provisions of this Act apply to group policies or contracts  
25 delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state after the effective  
26 date of this Act. A policy or contract providing coverage for eligible  
27 employees in this state delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed after the  
28 effective date of this Act shall be considered to provide the minimum cover-  
29 age required by this Act even if the language of the policy or contract does

1 not so specifically provide.

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