

Introduced: 3/26/81
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BUCHHOLDT

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 412

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to dental disease prevention programs
7 in schools; and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that an over-
10 whelming percentage of children in the state have dental disease in the form
11 of dental caries and periodontal disease. Dental disease in childhood can
12 and does result in significant lifetime disability, dental pain, missing
13 teeth, and the need for dentures. Poor nutrition in childhood is a major
14 contributing factor in lifetime dental disability. The legislature also
15 finds that dental disease in children and the resultant abnormalities in
16 adults can be prevented by education and treatment programs for children.
17 It is the intent of the legislature in enacting this Act to establish for
18 children in kindergarten through sixth grade a dental disease prevention
19 program which will be financed and have standards established at the state
20 level but which will be operated at the local level.

21 * Sec. 2. AS 18 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

22 CHAPTER 9. DENTAL DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN.

23 Sec. 18.09.010. DENTAL DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOLS.

24 (a) A school district or regional educational attendance area may
25 offer a dental disease prevention program for school children in kinder-
26 garten through sixth grade. The program shall include

27 (1) educational programs that promote dental health and are
28 focused on development of personal practices by pupils; the educational
29 programs shall include the causes and prevention of dental diseases,

1 nutrition and dental health, and the need for regular dental examination
2 with appropriate repair of existing defects;

3 (2) preventive services that include plaque control and
4 supervised application of topical prophylactic agents for caries preven-
5 tion; services do not include dental restoration, orthodontics, or
6 extraction of teeth.

7 (b) An act performed or service provided under this chapter that
8 constitutes the practice of dentistry shall be performed or provided by
9 or be subject to the supervision of a dentist licensed in accordance
10 with the provisions of AS 08.36.

11 Sec. 18.09.020. ADVISORY BOARD. An advisory board, including
12 representatives from education, dental professions, and parent groups
13 may be established by a school district or regional educational attend-
14 ance area or an existing health advisory body may be used to advise on
15 dental health programs under this chapter. An advisory board shall
16 hold a public meeting at least twice a year so that interested persons
17 may provide testimony on the dental health needs of the community.

18 Sec. 18.09.030. STANDARDS. The standards of the dental disease
19 prevention program shall be determined by the department in accordance
20 with this chapter.

21 Sec. 18.09.040. PROGRAM PROPOSALS. The school district or re-
22 gional educational attendance area in cooperation with a local advisory
23 board shall submit a proposal for a dental disease prevention program
24 to the department annually by July 1. The proposal shall include the
25 methods by which the program will be implemented in the school district
26 or regional educational attendance area.

27 Sec. 18.09.050. APPROVAL OF PROGRAM. The department shall review
28 program proposals submitted under AS 18.09.040 and approve those pro-
29 grams that meet standards established under AS 18.09.030. The depart-

1 ment shall reimburse a school district or regional educational attend-
2 ance area with an approved program \$3 a year for each participating
3 child for expenses incurred for the programs and services described in
4 AS 18.09.010.

5 Sec. 18.09.060. JOINT PROGRAMS. The school district or regional
6 educational attendance area may contract with other public and private
7 nonprofit agencies, as well as with other school districts and regional
8 educational attendance areas, in conducting a dental disease prevention
9 program.

10 Sec. 18.09.070. ASSISTANCE FROM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. The
11 Department of Education may assist the department and school districts
12 and regional educational attendance areas in developing in-service
13 training programs in dental health and dental disease prevention for
14 kindergarten through sixth grade teachers. The technical content of
15 the training programs shall meet standards set by the department under
16 AS 18.09.030.

17 Sec. 18.09.080. WITHDRAWAL BY PARENT. The parent or guardian of
18 a child may give written notice to a school district or regional educa-
19 tional attendance area withdrawing a child from participation in a
20 dental disease prevention program. The notice may disapprove the
21 child's participation in all or any portion of the program.

22 Sec. 18.09.090. PARTICIPATION BY PRIVATE SCHOOLS. The standards
23 established by the department under AS 18.09.030 shall include proce-
24 dures under which a child in a private school in the state may receive
25 the benefits of the dental disease prevention program.

26 Sec. 18.09.100. REPORTS. (a) On January 1 of each year the
27 school district or regional educational attendance area shall submit to
28 the department a report on a dental disease prevention program estab-
29 lished by this chapter. The report shall contain information specified

1 by the department and shall include the number of participating child-
2 ren, the number of children examined, the number of children requiring
3 dental care, the number of children treated, and the number of children
4 requiring further treatment.

5 (b) On February 1 of each year the department shall submit to the
6 legislature a report on all activities under the dental disease preven-
7 tion program including a summary of the information submitted under (a)
8 of this section.

9 Sec. 18.09.110. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "department" means
10 the Department of Health and Social Services.

11 * Sec. 3. (a) The initial standards adopted by the Department of Health
12 and Social Services under AS 18.09.030 shall be published in regulations of
13 the department by March 1, 1982.

14 (b) The initial program proposals of the school districts and regional
15 educational attendance areas under AS 18.09 shall be filed with the Depart-
16 ment of Health and Social Services by July 1, 1982.

17 (c) The initial reports under AS 18.09.100(a) are due from a school
18 district or regional educational attendance area on January 1, 1983.

19 (d) The initial report from the Department of Health and Social Ser-
20 vices to the legislature under AS 18.09.100(b) is due February 1, 1983.

21 * Sec. 4. The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee shall conduct an
22 evaluation of the dental disease prevention program provided by AS 18.09 as
23 enacted in sec. 2 of this bill during the fourth year of the program. The
24 evaluation shall include the cost effectiveness of the program and the
25 impact of the program on state expenditures for medical and dental care.
26 The report shall be submitted to the legislature on or before January 1,
27 1987.

28 * Sec. 5. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act take effect July 1, 1981.
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