

Introduced: 2/15/82
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BUCHHOLDT AND ZHAROFF

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 788

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a health promotion account in the
7 Department of Health and Social Services; and providing
8 for an effective date."

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

10 * Section 1. The legislature finds that almost one-tenth of the Gross
11 National Product is spent on health care. Of every dollar spent on health
12 care in the United States \$0.96 is spent on treatment of disease and illness,
13 and only \$0.04 is spent on the promotion of health and preventive health
14 services. The legislature finds that the promotion of the health of Alaskans
15 will contribute to a decrease in the long-term medical and health costs of
16 the state and the nation.

17 * Sec. 2. A health promotion account is established as a separate account
18 in the Department of Health and Social Services. Money appropriated to the
19 account by the legislature shall be spent on programs and services aimed at
20 reducing the incidence of and preventing health problems, including health
21 problems related to or resulting from nutritional deficiencies, obesity,
22 dental diseases and malformations, diseases borne by food or water, communi-
23 cable diseases, illnesses that result in the loss or impairment of the physi-
24 cal senses, pregnancy, alcoholism and other substance abuse, mental illness,
25 poor hygiene, and accidents.

26 * Sec. 3. (a) Each year, the department shall allocate money appropriated
27 to the account in accordance with (b) - (f) of this section.

28 (b) An amount equal to 25 percent of the money appropriated to the
29 account shall be allocated to the public health nursing program in the depart-

1 ment to provide the following services:

2 (1) health screening of patients;

3 (2) identification by screening of patients having characteristics
4 or conditions bearing a high risk of disease or illness, the risk of which
5 can be eliminated or substantially reduced by the application of appropriate
6 health care services;

7 (3) referral of persons identified in (2) of this subsection to
8 appropriate health care providers;

9 (4) education of patients and community health aides and community
10 health representatives in techniques of health promotion;

11 (5) follow-up on persons referred in (3) of this subsection to
12 ensure that appropriate health care has been administered.

13 (c) An amount equal to 35 percent of the money appropriated to the
14 account shall be allocated to existing health promotion programs and services
15 administered by regional health organizations under contract with the depart-
16 ment.

17 (d) An amount equal to 20 percent of the money appropriated to the
18 account shall be allocated to new health promotion programs that deal with
19 local health promotion needs, and that are designed and administered by local
20 or regional health organizations under contract with the department.

21 (e) An amount equal to 10 percent of the money appropriated to the
22 account shall be allocated to a statewide health education program admin-
23 istered by the department or by local or regional health organizations under
24 contract with the department.

25 (f) The department may spend not more than an amount equal to 10 percent
26 of the money appropriated to the account to evaluate programs funded by
27 allocations from the account.

28 * Sec. 4. By January 31, 1984, and January 31, 1985, the department shall
29 submit to the legislature preliminary reports assessing the effectiveness of

1 health promotion programs in preventing disease and illness and lowering the
2 immediate and long-term costs of health care to the state and its residents.
3 By January 31, 1986, the department shall submit to the legislature a final
4 report, including recommendations for future action in the area of health
5 promotion in the state.

6 * Sec. 5. When appropriate, the department shall contract with local and
7 regional health care organizations for the provision of programs and services
8 funded by allocations from the account.

9 * Sec. 6. In this Act, unless the context indicates otherwise,

10 (1) "account" means the health promotion account established in
11 sec. 2 of this Act;

12 (2) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Ser-
13 vices;

14 (3) "health promotion" means the promotion of wellness and preven-
15 tion of disease, as opposed to the treatment of disease;

16 (4) "regional health organization" includes private nonprofit
17 health agencies, local government health agencies, Native nonprofit regional
18 health corporations, and Native nonprofit regional social service corpora-
19 tions that have health departments.

20 * Sec. 7. This Act may be cited as the Alaska Health Promotion Act.

21 * Sec. 8. Sections 1 - 3 and 5 - 7 of this Act terminate July 1, 1985.

22 * Sec. 9. This Act takes effect July 1, 1982.
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