

Introduced: 2/16/82  
Referred: Health, Education  
& Social Services and Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY FISCHER

2 SENATE BILL NO. 799

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 the senior Alaskans volunteer  
7 enterprises program; and providing for an effective  
8 date."

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

10 \* Section 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT. The legislature finds that the wealth  
11 of experience, expertise, and wisdom of older Alaskans constitutes a valuable  
12 state resource. It is the intent of the legislature that this resource be  
13 developed in order to address the needs and problems of Alaskans and to  
14 improve the general welfare of the people of the state.

15 \* Sec. 2. PURPOSE. This Act provides for the senior Alaskans volunteer  
16 enterprises (SAVE) program of full-time volunteer service. The purpose of  
17 this Act is to strengthen and supplement efforts to eliminate human, social,  
18 and environmental problems in Alaska by encouraging and enabling Alaska  
19 residents 60 years of age and older

20 (1) from all walks of life to perform meaningful and constructive  
21 volunteer service to their communities; and

22 (2) with business experience to assist persons engaged in, or who  
23 seek to engage in, small business enterprises.

24 \* Sec. 3. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. The senior Alaskans volunteer enterprises  
25 program is established in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

26 \* Sec. 4. DIRECTOR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AND STAFF. (a) The governor shall  
27 appoint a director and a deputy director for the program for a term of five  
28 years.

29 (b) The director and deputy director are in the partially exempt

1 service under AS 39.25.120 and shall be compensated at the same rate as a  
2 director and a deputy director of a division of a principal department in the  
3 executive branch.

4 (c) The deputy director shall perform such functions as the director  
5 prescribes, and shall act as the director during the absence or disability of  
6 the director.

7 (d) The director may select and employ staff necessary to accomplish  
8 the purposes of this Act.

9 \* Sec. 5. VOLUNTEERS. (a) The director shall recruit, select, and  
10 enroll Alaska residents 60 years of age and older to serve in full-time  
11 volunteer programs of the kind described in sec. 7 of this Act. The director  
12 shall take appropriate action to insure that women and members of minority  
13 groups are included among those who serve as volunteers.

14 (b) The director may provide short-term training necessary to make the  
15 most effective use of the skills and talents of volunteers.

16 (c) A volunteer shall be enrolled for a period of service of not less  
17 than one year, except that a volunteer may be enrolled for a period of less  
18 than a year if the director determines that service by the volunteer for a  
19 shorter period is necessary to achieve a purpose of this Act.

20 (d) A volunteer receives no compensation for service under this Act,  
21 but is entitled to be reimbursed for transportation, meals, and other out-of-  
22 pocket expenses incident to training received or service provided by the  
23 volunteer.

24 (e) The director shall establish a procedure, including notice and an  
25 opportunity to be heard, for a volunteer to present and obtain resolution of  
26 grievances concerning terms and conditions of service. The director shall  
27 provide to a volunteer information regarding the procedure and the terms and  
28 conditions of service at the time of enrollment.

29 \* Sec. 6. ASSIGNMENT OF VOLUNTEERS. (a) Upon request of a local govern-

1 ment agency or a private nonprofit organization, the director may assign a  
2 volunteer to work in a program funded, administered, or operated by the  
3 agency or organization for the purpose of accomplishing a purpose of this  
4 Act.

5 (b) The director shall assign a volunteer to work in the community in  
6 which the volunteer resides, or a nearby community, unless the volunteer  
7 agrees to serve elsewhere in the state.

8 \* Sec. 7. ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS. Programs to which the director may assign a  
9 volunteer include

10 (1) programs to provide supportive person-to-person services in  
11 health and education to children, including "foster grandparents" programs;

12 (2) programs to provide adults with home health care, nursing  
13 care, "meals-on-wheels" and other nutritional services;

14 (3) "senior companions" programs for persons with developmental or  
15 other physical or mental disabilities; and

16 (4) programs using the expertise of volunteers with business  
17 experience to assist persons engaged in small business or seeking to be  
18 engaged in small business, or to counsel persons in management or financial  
19 matters in furtherance of the purposes of this Act.

20 \* Sec. 8. SPECIAL AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS. (a) The director may  
21 conduct, or make a grant and enter into a contract for, a special volunteer  
22 program or demonstration program designed to (1) encourage wider volunteer  
23 participation to further the purposes of this Act, and (2) identify particu-  
24 lar segments of communities that could benefit from volunteer enterprises.

25 (b) A special or demonstration program under (a) of this section  
26 includes a program to (1) provide alternatives to the incarceration of youth-  
27 ful offenders; (2) promote educational opportunities for veterans; and (3)  
28 provide community-based peer group outreach and counseling for drug abusers.

29 \* Sec. 9. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS. (a) The director may make a grant or

1 enter into a contract with a local government agency or a private nonprofit  
2 organization to pay part or all of the costs for the development and opera-  
3 tion of a volunteer service program under this Act.

4 (b) Payments under this Act for a grant or contract shall be made on  
5 conditions determined by the director.

6 (c) The director may suspend further payments or terminate payments  
7 under a contract or grant providing assistance under this Act, if he deter-  
8 mines there is a material failure to comply with the terms and conditions of  
9 the grant or contract.

10 (d) The director shall prescribe procedures to insure that

11 (1) payments under this Act are not suspended for failure to  
12 comply with the terms and conditions of a grant or contract, except in emer-  
13 gency situations for 30 days, unless the agency or organization that is a  
14 party to the grant or contract has been given reasonable notice and oppor-  
15 tunity to show cause why that action should not be taken; and

16 (2) payments under this Act may not be terminated for failure to  
17 comply with the terms and conditions of a grant or contract unless the agency  
18 or organization that is a party to the grant or contract has been afforded  
19 reasonable notice and opportunity for a full and fair hearing.

20 \* Sec. 10. NONDISCRIMINATION. The director may not provide financial  
21 assistance under a grant or contract for a program under this Act unless the  
22 grant or contract specifically provides that a person with responsibilities  
23 in the operation of the program will not discriminate with respect to the  
24 program because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orienta-  
25 tion, marital status, parental status, physical disability, or political  
26 affiliation.

27 \* Sec. 11. PARTICIPATION OF BENEFICIARIES AND OLDER ALASKANS COMMISSION.

28 (a) The director, after consultation with the agency or organization sponsor-  
29 ing a volunteer service program, shall establish a continuing mechanism

1 through which residents of a community to be served by the program may par-  
2 ticipate in planning, developing, and implementing the program.

3 (b) Before the director makes a grant or enters into a contract with an  
4 agency or organization sponsoring a volunteer service program, the Older  
5 Alaskans Commission (AS 44.21.200 - 44.21.240) shall have 30 days to review  
6 the program and make recommendations to the director concerning the program.

7 \* Sec. 12. EVALUATIONS. (a) The director shall periodically evaluate  
8 all programs authorized by this Act, their effectiveness in achieving stated  
9 goals, their impact on related programs, and their structure and mechanisms  
10 for delivery of services. Evaluations shall be conducted by persons not  
11 immediately involved in the administration of the program evaluated. In  
12 carrying out evaluations the director shall obtain the opinions of program  
13 participants concerning the program.

14 (b) The director shall develop and publish general standards for evalu-  
15 ation of program effectiveness in achieving the objectives of this Act.

16 (c) The director may, for the purpose of conducting an evaluation under  
17 this section, spend not more than one percent of funds appropriated to the  
18 senior Alaskans volunteer enterprises program.

19 (d) The director shall publish a report of a program evaluation not  
20 later than 60 days after the completion of the evaluation.

21 \* Sec. 13. AUDIT. (a) An agency or organization with which the director  
22 has a contract or to which the director has made a grant shall maintain  
23 records as required by the director, including records that fully disclose

24 (1) the amount and disposition by the agency or organization of  
25 the proceeds of the assistance;

26 (2) the total cost of the program in connection with which assist-  
27 ance is given or used;

28 (3) the amount of that portion of the cost of the program supplied  
29 by sources other than the director; and

1 (4) other records that will facilitate an effective audit.

2 (b) The director, until three years after the completion of a program  
3 for which records are required to be kept under this section,

4 (1) shall have access to the records for the purpose of conducting  
5 an audit; and

6 (2) may examine any books, documents, papers, and records that in  
7 the opinion of the director may be related or pertinent to a grant or con-  
8 tract referred to in (a) of this section.

9 \* Sec. 14. ANNUAL REPORT. The director shall submit to the legislature  
10 each January a report of the activities of the senior Alaskans volunteer  
11 enterprises program, including copies of evaluations conducted under sec. 12  
12 of this Act.

13 \* Sec. 15. DEFINITIONS. In this Act,

14 (1) "director" means the director of the senior Alaskans volunteer  
15 enterprises program;

16 (2) "resident" means a person who for 12 consecutive months imme-  
17 diately preceding enrollment as a volunteer under this Act has maintained a  
18 permanent place of abode in the state and has continually maintained his  
19 voting residence in the state;

20 (3) "volunteer" means a person enrolled to perform volunteer  
21 service in the senior Alaskans volunteer enterprises program.

22 \* Sec. 16. This Act terminates June 30, 1987.

23 \* Sec. 17. This Act takes effect July 1, 1982.