

Introduced: 2/13/84  
Referred: Health, Education &  
Social Services, Judiciary and  
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY LACHER

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HOUSE BILL NO. 670

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to runaway and homeless youths."

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

8 \* Section 1. AS 47.10 is amended by adding new sections to read:

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ARTICLE 5. RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAMS.

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Sec. 47.10.300. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAMS BY DEPARTMENT. (a)

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Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the department shall provide for the establishment of runaway and homeless youth programs accessible to minors throughout the state.

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(b) A runaway and homeless youth program established under this section shall

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(1) provide assistance to a runaway or homeless youth;

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(2) attempt to determine the cause for the youth's runaway or homeless status;

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(3) explain to the runaway and homeless youth the legal rights and options of service or other assistance available to the youth;

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(4) work towards reuniting a runaway or homeless youth with a parent or guardian as soon as practicable;

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(5) assist in arranging for necessary services for a runaway or homeless youth, and where appropriate, the youth's family, including food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and individual and family counseling; and

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(6) immediately report to the department any case in which the program staff has reasonable cause to suspect that a runaway or

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1 homeless youth has been abused or neglected, or in which a youth  
2 maintains that the youth was abused or neglected.

3 (c) A runaway or homeless youth admitted to a program under this  
4 section may remain in the program on a voluntary basis for a period of  
5 30 days after the date of admission in order that arrangements may be  
6 made for the youth to be returned home, to be placed with a relative  
7 or other responsible adult, or to be admitted to an alternative insti-  
8 tution or program administered by the department.

9 Sec. 47.10.310. NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN. Not later than 72  
10 hours after admitting a youth to a runaway and homeless youth program,  
11 the staff of the program shall notify the youth's parent, guardian, or  
12 other legal custodian of the youth's physical and emotional condition  
13 and the circumstances surrounding the youth's presence at the program,  
14 unless there are compelling circumstances justifying not giving the  
15 notice. If compelling circumstances exist, the program staff shall  
16 provide the notice to the department.

17 Sec. 47.10.320. IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY. An  
18 officer, director, or employee of a runaway and homeless youth program  
19 is immune from civil and criminal liability for, or arising out of,  
20 the release of a youth to a relative or other responsible adult other  
21 than a parent, guardian or legal custodian of the youth.

22 Sec. 47.10.330. DEFINITIONS. In AS 47.10.300 - 47.10.320,

23 (1) "department" means the Department of Health and Social  
24 Services;

25 (2) "homeless youth" means a person under the age of 18 who  
26 is without a place of shelter in which adult supervision and care are  
27 available;

28 (3) "runaway youth" means a person under the age of 18 who  
29 is absent from the youth's legal residence without the consent of a

1 parent, guardian, or other legal custodian.