

Offered: 5/10/84  
Referred: Finance

Original sponsor: Resources Committee

1 IN THE SENATE  
2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 520 (HESS)  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION  
5 A BILL  
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the establishment of a state  
7 mental health rehabilitation center; and providing  
8 for an effective date."  
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
10 \* Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that children and adults  
11 who suffer from chronic and debilitating psychiatric illness are among the  
12 most underserved of all of the state's citizens. These persons are unable  
13 to provide for their daily needs and require assistance to maintain them-  
14 selves as functioning members of their communities. For some, acute and  
15 crisis intervention services are needed. For others, long-term maintenance  
16 care is required with on-going residential supervision and assistance,  
17 including vocational rehabilitation, continuing education, special educa-  
18 tion, psychotherapy, and opportunities for sheltered employment, in order  
19 to participate as functioning members of society. The legislature further  
20 finds that there is a need for an additional residential care facility to  
21 serve the northern region of the state, community support system facilities  
22 to provide comprehensive services to adolescents; and a long-term inpatient  
23 facility designed specifically to meet the medical and educational needs of  
24 young Alaskans. Therefore, the legislature finds that there is a need for  
25 a comprehensive mental health rehabilitation center or a mix of facilities  
26 to meet these needs. The facility or facilities shall be located in  
27 Fairbanks.  
28 \* Sec. 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT. (a) The Department of  
29 Health and Social Services shall, in consultation with local mental health

1 providers, local hospitals, private citizen groups involved with mental  
2 health and the Department of Education, develop a plan to design and  
3 construct a facility or facilities to meet the mental health needs of state  
4 residents.

5 (b) The Department of Health and Social Services shall consider in  
6 its plan

7 (1) the provision of residential care and community-based  
8 support programs for the chronically mentally ill adult population;

9 (2) the provision of residential care and community-based  
10 comprehensive support programs to deal with adolescents who neither fit  
11 into an inpatient psychiatric facility nor can be placed into a normal  
12 educational facility; and

13 (3) the provision of acute and long-term inpatient psychiatric  
14 care to address the state's lack of facilities for adolescents whose needs  
15 cannot be met by private in-state institutions or by residential care  
16 facilities and who are currently being sent outside of the state to receive  
17 medical and educational attention.

18 (c) The Department of Health and Social Services shall investigate  
19 the feasibility of privately-operated facilities and state-operated facili-  
20 ties.

21 \* Sec. 3. PURPOSE OF CENTER. The purpose of the mental health reha-  
22 bilitation center is to provide residential, inpatient and outpatient,  
23 psychotherapy, vocational rehabilitation, life skills training, and educa-  
24 tional services to emotionally disabled persons in the state based upon  
25 referrals from state and private referral agencies and school districts  
26 throughout the state.

27 \* Sec. 4. REPORT. The department shall submit a report to the legisla-  
28 ture by the 10th day of the First Regular Session of the Fourteenth Alaska  
29 State Legislature. The report shall include specific budget

1 recommendations to implement the plan developed under sec. 2 of this Act,  
2 including capital and operational requirements.

3 \* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-  
4 10.070(c).