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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 262

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to child care centers in state
7 buildings; and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds that it
10 is in the public interest to foster the productivity of Alaska workers and
11 to encourage and assist Alaska parents to further their own formal educa-
12 tion. The achievement of these goals will be served by establishing facil-
13 ities for quality child care services in or near the workplace and on the
14 campuses of the University of Alaska and the state's community colleges.
15 To that end, this Act provides for the creation of privately operated child
16 care centers in state buildings.

17 (b) It is the intent of the legislature to encourage private employ-
18 ers to provide adequate child care facilities for their employees.

19 * Sec. 2. AS 35.10.010 is amended to read:

20 Sec. 35.10.010. STANDARD PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND LIMITATION
21 ON COST. The department shall prepare and adopt plans and specifica-
22 tions and determine standards for the construction of each public
23 work. Each public work shall be limited in cost to the amount of the
24 appropriation made for that purpose. The plans and specifications may
25 be amended from time to time as the department considers advisable,
26 except that plans for a child care center under AS 35.10.021 may not
27 be deleted or substantially altered. This section does not apply to
28 the construction of school buildings in incorporated cities, unless
29 the construction is done in whole or in part with state funds, or to

1 the construction of school buildings when the construction amounts to
2 less than \$2,000.

3 * Sec. 3. AS 35.10 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 Sec. 35.10.021. CHILD CARE CENTERS IN STATE BUILDINGS. (a) The
5 person or agency responsible for planning the construction, expansion,
6 or major renovation of a building owned or leased by the state shall
7 determine the need for a child care center in the building. The
8 determination shall be based on an assessment of

9 (1) the child care needs of public and private employees
10 who work in the building or in neighboring buildings;

11 (2) the child care needs of students who attend classes or
12 other school functions in the building or in neighboring buildings;

13 (3) the availability of licensed child care centers located
14 within a convenient distance from the building.

15 (b) If it is determined under (a) of this section that a child
16 care center is needed in a building that is owned or leased by the
17 state, then (1) plans for construction, expansion, or major renovation
18 of the building shall include plans for a child care center in the
19 building; and (2) a child care center shall be established in the
20 building. The child care center shall be designed to meet and shall
21 meet state health, safety, and licensing requirements.

22 (c) The person or agency responsible for assigning or leasing
23 space in a building in which a child care center under this section is
24 determined to be needed and is required to be located shall award a
25 contract for the lease of space in the building on a competitive bid
26 basis to a private licensed child care services provider for the
27 operation of the child care center. The bid requests shall specify
28 that the child care center must (1) comply with state health, safety,
29 and licensing requirements; (2) provide learning activities

1 appropriate to the ages of the children enrolled in the center; (3)
2 maintain a staff-to-child ratio that permits proper supervision of the
3 children enrolled in the center; and (4) allow and encourage parental
4 involvement in the center's activities, including unannounced visits
5 by parents. The bid requests shall specify and the lease shall
6 provide that the space for the child care center be rented at a rate
7 equal to the average cost per square foot of space leased by child
8 care providers in the community in which the building is located as
9 determined by the person or agency responsible for assigning or
10 leasing the space.

11 (d) Use of a child care center in a building owned or leased by
12 the state is open to the public, subject to state health, safety, and
13 licensing requirements. However, preference may be made for the child
14 care needs of the public and private employees working in or near the
15 building.

16 (e) The requirements of (a) and (b) of this section do not apply
17 to a building leased by the state under a pre-built lease providing
18 for renovations for the state if the building cannot meet or be ren-
19 ovated to meet the indoor and outdoor space requirements for a child
20 care center that are established under regulations adopted by the
21 Department of Health and Social Services.

22 (f) The Department of Administration may adopt regulations to
23 implement the provisions of this section.

24 (g) In this section

25 (1) "building" means a building in which the space occupied
26 by state employees is used primarily for administrative, clerical,
27 educational, or executive functions;

28 (2) "leased" means leased under a pre-built lease with
29 provisions for renovations for the state or under a lease for a

1 building to be built according to state specifications, but "leased"
2 does not include the renewal of existing leases.
3 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
4 10.070(c).