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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 279

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 Alzheimer's disease and related
7 disorders."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 44.21.230(b) is amended to read:

10 (b) To accomplish its duties, the commission may

11 (1) review, evaluate, and comment upon state programs
12 concerned with the problems and the needs of older Alaskans;

13 (2) collect facts and statistics, and make studies of
14 conditions and problems pertaining to the employment, health, finan-
15 cial security, social welfare, and other concerns that bear upon the
16 well-being of older Alaskans;

17 (3) provide information about public programs that would be
18 of interest or benefit to older Alaskans;

19 (4) appoint special committees, which may include persons
20 who are not members of the commission, to complete necessary studies;

21 (5) promote community education efforts regarding the
22 problems and concerns of older Alaskans;

23 (6) contract for necessary services;

24 (7) consult and cooperate with persons, organizations, and
25 groups interested in or concerned with programs of assistance to older
26 Alaskans;

27 (8) advocate improved programs of benefit to older
28 Alaskans; [AND]

29 (9) set standards for levels of services for older Alaskans

1 for programs administered by the commission; and
2 (10) make grants to nonprofit organizations for the opera-
3 tion of adult day-care centers, or the provision of services that
4 offer supervision, custodial care, and psychological and physical
5 activities for persons afflicted with Alzheimer's disease and related
6 disorders.

7 * Sec. 2. AS 47.05.010 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 47.05.010. DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT. The Department of Health
9 and Social Services shall

10 (1) administer adult public assistance, aid to families
11 with dependent children, and all other assistance programs, and re-
12 ceive and spend funds made available to it;

13 (2) adopt regulations necessary for the conduct of its
14 business and for carrying out federal and state laws granting adult
15 public assistance, aid to families with dependent children, and other
16 assistance;

17 (3) establish minimum standards for personnel employed by
18 the department and adopt necessary regulations to maintain those
19 standards;

20 (4) require those bonds and undertakings from persons
21 employed by it which in its judgment are necessary, and pay the premi-
22 ums on them;

23 (5) cooperate with the federal government in matters of
24 mutual concern pertaining to adult public assistance, aid to families
25 with dependent children, and other forms of public assistance;

26 (6) make the reports, in the form and containing the infor-
27 mation, which the federal government from time to time requires;

28 (7) cooperate with the federal government, its agencies or
29 instrumentalities in establishing, extending and strengthening

1 services for the protection and care of homeless, dependent and ne-
2 glected children in danger of becoming delinquent, and receive and
3 expend funds available to the department by the federal government,
4 the state or its political subdivisions for that purpose;

5 (8) cooperate with the federal government in adopting state
6 plans to make the state eligible for federal matching in appropriate
7 categories of assistance, and in all matters of mutual concern, in-
8 cluding adoption of the methods of administration which are found by
9 the federal government to be necessary for the efficient operation of
10 welfare programs;

11 (9) adopt regulations, not inconsistent with law, defining
12 need, prescribing the conditions of eligibility for assistance, and
13 establishing standards for determining the amount of assistance which
14 an eligible person is entitled to receive; the amount of the assis-
15 tance is sufficient when, added to all other income and resources
16 available to an individual, it provides the individual with a reason-
17 able subsistence compatible with health and well-being; an individual
18 who meets the requirements for eligibility for assistance shall be
19 granted the assistance promptly upon application for it;

20 (10) grant to a person claiming or receiving assistance and
21 who is aggrieved because of the department's action or failure to act,
22 reasonable notice and an opportunity for a fair hearing by the depart-
23 ment, and the department shall adopt regulations relative to this;

24 (11) enter into reciprocal agreements with other states
25 relative to public assistance, welfare services, and institutional
26 care which are considered advisable;

27 (12) establish the requirements of residence for public
28 assistance, welfare services and institutional care which are con-
29 sidered advisable, subject to the limitations of other laws of the

1 state, or law or regulation imposed as conditions for federal finan-
2 cial participation;

3 (13) establish the divisions and local offices which are
4 considered necessary or expedient to carry out a duty or authority
5 assigned to it and appoint and employ the assistants and personnel
6 which are necessary to carry on the work of the divisions and offices,
7 and fix the compensation of the assistants or employees except that a
8 person engaged in business as a retail vendor of general merchandise,
9 or a member of the immediate family of a person who is so engaged, may
10 not serve as an acting, temporary or permanent local agent of the de-
11 partment, unless the commissioner of health and social services certi-
12 fies in writing to the governor, with relation to a particular commu-
13 nity, that no other qualified person is available in the community to
14 serve as local welfare agent; for the purposes of this paragraph, a
15 "member of the immediate family" includes a spouse, child, parent,
16 brother, sister, parent-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law;

17 (14) operate or contract for the operation of a statewide
18 service based in Anchorage for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease
19 and related disorders; the center shall provide for at least 20 hours
20 each week the services of a psychiatrist, a psychologist, and a nurse
21 [REPEALED].

22 * Sec. 3. ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE TASK FORCE. (a) The Older Alaskans
23 Commission shall establish an Alzheimer's disease task force to

24 (1) investigate problems related to the care and diagnosis of
25 people with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders;

26 (2) propose programs and policies to relieve or resolve these
27 problems; and

28 (3) report its findings to the legislature and the governor by
29 February 1, 1986.

1 (b) The task force shall include family members of Alzheimer's dis-
2 ease victims; a social worker, nurse, and physician familiar with geriatric
3 care; and representatives of senior citizens' organizations.