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Original sponsors: Koponen, Duncan,
Clocksin, et al

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 279 (HESS)

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

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For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to Alzheimer's disease and related

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disorders and to services for certain frail elderly

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persons."

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

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

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(b) To accomplish its duties, the commission may

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(1) review, evaluate, and comment upon state programs

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concerned with the problems and the needs of older Alaskans;

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(2) collect facts and statistics, and make studies of

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conditions and problems pertaining to the employment, health, finan-

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cial security, social welfare, and other concerns that bear upon the

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well-being of older Alaskans;

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(3) provide information about public programs that would be

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of interest or benefit to older Alaskans;

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(4) appoint special committees, which may include persons

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who are not members of the commission, to complete necessary studies;

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(5) promote community education efforts regarding the

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problems and concerns of older Alaskans;

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(6) contract for necessary services;

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(7) consult and cooperate with persons, organizations, and

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groups interested in or concerned with programs of assistance to older

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Alaskans;

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(8) advocate improved programs of benefit to older

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Alaskans; [AND]

1 (9) set standards for levels of services for older Alaskans
2 for programs administered by the commission; and

3 (10) make grants to nonprofit organizations for the opera-
4 tion of adult day-care centers, respite care services, and the pro-
5 vision of services that offer supervision, custodial care, and psycho-
6 logical and physical activities for persons afflicted with Alzheimer's
7 disease or related disorders, and for frail elderly persons who are at
8 risk of premature institutionalization.

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

10 Sec. 47.05.010. DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT. The Department of Health
11 and Social Services shall

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (7) cooperate with the federal government, its agencies or
2 instrumentalities in establishing, extending and strengthening ser-
3 vices for the protection and care of homeless, dependent and neglected
4 children in danger of becoming delinquent, and receive and expend
5 funds available to the department by the federal government, the state
6 or its political subdivisions for that purpose;

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

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

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

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

29 (12) establish the requirements of residence for public

1 assistance, welfare services and institutional care which are con-
2 sidered advisable, subject to the limitations of other laws of the
3 state, or law or regulation imposed as conditions for federal finan-
4 cial participation;

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

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

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

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

28 (2) propose programs and policies to relieve or resolve these
29 problems; and

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

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