

Offered: 4/1/86
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: Koponen, Gruenberg
and Taylor

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 691 (HESS) SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 A BILL
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to medical care for newly born
7 children; and providing for an effective date."
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
9 * Section 1. AS 47.08.050 is amended to read:
10 Sec. 47.08.050. SERVICES EXCLUDED FROM COVERAGE. Annually, the
11 committee shall determine in light of appropriated funds and expected
12 need the medical expenses reimbursable under this chapter, except that
13 the following are not reimbursable:
14 (1) dentistry and optometry unless prescribed by a licensed
15 dentist or physician as medically necessary as the result of the
16 injury or illness;
17 (2) elective medical or surgical procedures;
18 (3) drugs and medications not prescribed by a licensed
19 physician;
20 (4) services received as a result of a pregnancy or birth
21 without unusual complications;
22 (5) private psychological or psychiatric treatment or
23 private alcoholism treatment, unless not available from public agen-
24 cies or programs;
25 (6) chiropractic services;
26 (7) services not of a medical nature;
27 (8) medical services currently provided to persons in the
28 custody of the Department of Corrections;
29 (9) costs incurred before July 1976;

1 (10) services rendered to a newly born child for problems of
2 perinatal origin; in this paragraph, "newly born child" means a child
3 up to six months of age.

4 * Sec. 2. AS 47.25 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 ARTICLE 4A. NEWLY BORN CHILDREN'S FUND.

6 Sec. 47.25.782. NEWLY BORN CHILDREN'S FUND. (a) There is
7 established in the department the newly born children's fund, to be
8 administered by the commissioner of health and social services.

9 (b) The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance
10 to persons responsible for the payment of extraordinary medical care
11 provided to a newly born child for problems of perinatal origin.

12 (c) The fund consists of money appropriated to it by the legis-
13 lature.

14 Sec. 47.25.784. REGULATIONS. (a) The commissioner of health
15 and social services shall adopt regulations

16 (1) establishing income and resource criteria for determin-
17 ing an applicant's eligibility under the fund;

18 (2) providing for a method of determining the share of
19 total medical expenses an applicant may be required to pay, in light
20 of appropriations to and expected needs of the fund; and

21 (3) establishing procedures for applying for and granting
22 financial assistance from the fund.

23 (b) The commissioner may adopt other regulations for administer-
24 ing the fund.

25 Sec. 47.25.786. DEFINITIONS. In AS 47.25.782 - 47.25.786

26 (1) "extraordinary medical care" means necessary medical
27 care resulting in expenses of more than \$2,500 after all other sources
28 of third-party payment, including the handicapped children's program
29 (7AAC 23.110 - 7AAC 23.220), have been exhausted;

- 1 (2) "fund" means the newly born children's fund;
2 (3) "newly born child" means a child up to six months of
3 age;
4 (4) "perinatal origin" means originating during the period
5 from the 28th week of gestation through the fourth week after birth;
6 (5) "third-party payment" means payment by sources other
7 than the applicant, including but not limited to state and federal
8 medical assistance programs, private health insurance, employment-
9 related health insurance, military health insurance, workers' compen-
10 sation, violent crimes compensation, Indian Health Service of the
11 United States Department of Health and Human Services, and awards in
12 legal actions.
13 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect October 1, 1986.