

Introduced: 1/15/85
Referred: Health, Education and
Social Services and
Community and Regional
Affairs and Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY JOSEPHSON

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SENATE BILL NO. 55

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to a social services fund."

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

8 * Section 1. AS 47 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

9

CHAPTER 77. SOCIAL SERVICES FUND.

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Sec. 47.77.010. SOCIAL SERVICES FUND. (a) There is created in

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the Department of Health and Social Services a social services fund.

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The department shall distribute the money appropriated to this fund as

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described in (b) of this section.

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(b) In administering the social services fund, the department

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shall

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(1) after consulting with the Department of Community and

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Regional Affairs, divide the state into social services regions and

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select an appropriate entity, which may be a municipality, a borough

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assembly, a tribal council, or a nonprofit corporation to represent

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each region in its business with the department;

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(2) adopt regulations establishing guidelines, consistent

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with AS 47.75.010 and 47.75.020, for regional social services plans

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and for the establishment and operation of regional needs assessment

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task forces and regional fund distribution procedures or entities,

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which may include the entities selected under (b)(1) of this section;

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(3) review regional social services plans submitted for

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approval, and approve those plans that meet the department's guide-

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lines; and

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(4) annually distribute the money appropriated to this fund

1 to the entities representing the social services regions that have had
2 plans approved; distribution of funds shall be made on a per capita
3 basis, using population figures determined under AS 29.89.060, or as
4 adjusted under AS 47.77.040.

5 Sec. 47.77.020. ELIGIBILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES REGION FOR FUND-
6 ING. To be eligible for funding of a region's social services pro-
7 grams, the entity representing the social services region shall

8 (1) create a needs assessment task force and a fund distri-
9 bution procedure or entity for the region, following the guidelines
10 adopted under AS 47.77.010;

11 (2) develop and submit to the Department of Health and
12 Social Services biennially a social services plan consistent with the
13 department's guidelines under AS 47.77.010, and receive approval for
14 the plan from the department;

15 (3) indicate in the biennial plan if there is a need for a
16 higher than per capita allotment, requiring an adjustment under
17 AS 47.77.040.

18 Sec. 47.77.030. ELIGIBILITY OF PROVIDERS FOR FUNDS. A provider
19 of social services is not eligible for inclusion in and receipt of
20 funds under a regional social services plan unless the provider is a
21 nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that is not fully funded by
22 the state or a local government or agency. A provider eligible to
23 receive funding under AS 29.89 is not eligible for funding under
24 AS 47.77.010.

25 Sec. 47.77.040. ADJUSTMENTS IN PER CAPITA ALLOTMENTS. (a) A
26 social services region may request the Department of Health and Social
27 Services to adjust the per capita distribution formula for social
28 services funds. A request to do so shall be submitted to the depart-
29 ment by the region with its biennial plan.

1 (b) The department may adjust the per capita formula for distri-
2 bution of social services funds under AS 47.77.010 based upon factors
3 including rural location, inflation, and other special problems in-
4 cluding the higher cost of providing services in a particular area as
5 compared with the rest of the state.

6 (c) The department shall adopt regulations governing the
7 (1) documentation required to support a request to adjust
8 the per capita distribution formula; and
9 (2) criteria for adjustment of the per capita distribution
10 formula.

11 Sec. 47.77.190. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "social services"
12 has the meaning given in AS 47.75.060.