

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY COLLINS AND PHILLIPS

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 501

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

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For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Alaska Children's Commis-

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sion; and providing for an effective date."

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

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\* Section 1. ALASKA CHILDREN'S COMMISSION. (a) The Alaska Children's

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Commission is established as a commission of the legislature.

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(b) The commission consists of the following persons:

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(1) the chairs of the house and senate judiciary committees and  
the health, education and social services committees;

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(2) representatives designated by the governor from the Depart-  
ment of Health and Social Services, the Department of Public Safety, the  
Department of Community and Regional Affairs, the Department of Education,  
and the Department of Law;

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(3) a member of the senate appointed by the president of the  
senate;

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(4) a member of the house of representatives appointed by the  
speaker of the house;

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(5) a member of the senate appointed by the senate minority  
leader;

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(6) a member of the house of representatives appointed by the  
house minority leader;

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(7) four persons appointed by the president of the senate and  
four persons appointed by the speaker of the house who are involved with  
children and issues affecting children, such as teachers, social workers,  
child services providers, attorneys and children's advocates, judges,

1 correction and probation officers, physicians and other health care pro-  
2 viders, family counselors, parents, and other interested persons.

3 (c) A vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as  
4 the original appointment or designation.

5 (d) The members of the commission who are not designated by the  
6 governor or members of the legislature serve without compensation for their  
7 service on the commission but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses  
8 authorized by law for commissions under AS 39.20.180.

9 (e) The members of the commission shall elect one of the members as  
10 chair and may elect other commission officers as necessary.

11 \* Sec. 2. STRATEGY FOR DELIVERY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES. (a) The  
12 commission shall develop a long-term strategy for the development of an  
13 effective, comprehensive, and coordinated children's services delivery  
14 system to meet the needs of the state. The strategy shall

15 (1) define existing service needs of children in the state;

16 (2) identify the kinds of services needed by children and fam-  
17 ilies in the state to maintain a minimum standard of physical and mental  
18 health and safety;

19 (3) identify the current level of services available and gaps  
20 and overlaps of services;

21 (4) make recommendations to implement an effective, comprehen-  
22 sive, and coordinated services delivery system;

23 (5) identify

24 (A) procedures to reduce overlapping services and to fill  
25 gaps in service through shared service programs;

26 (B) methods to increase the effectiveness, participation,  
27 and communication among municipal, state, federal, private nonprofit,  
28 and private for profit funding sources in defining and funding the  
29 children's services delivery system; and

1 (C) state funding priorities for prevention and early  
2 intervention activities to meet the needs of children and families.

3 (b) In formulating the strategy, the commission shall seek advice and  
4 information from children's services providers with expertise in children's  
5 mental health, health care including prenatal care, adolescent drug and  
6 alcohol treatment, education including early childhood education, nonprofit  
7 funding sources, child abuse and neglect, child care, dependency, delin-  
8 quency and the juvenile justice system, and family support systems.

9 (c) The commission shall submit to the governor and the legislature  
10 an initial strategy by July 1, 1989, and a final report containing the  
11 long-term children's services strategy and recommendations by January 1,  
12 1990.

13 \* Sec. 3. REVIEW OF LAWS. The commission shall review the laws of the  
14 state with regard to matters involving children and shall make a report of  
15 its findings and recommendations to the governor and the legislature by  
16 January 1, 1990.

17 \* Sec. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION. The commission shall

18 (1) meet with state officials and members of advisory committees  
19 to state agencies that are responsible for the expenditure of state or  
20 federal funds or for other matters on behalf of children;

21 (2) receive from state officials and members of advisory commit-  
22 tees to state agencies requests for review and recommendations by the  
23 commission on matters related to children;

24 (3) meet with representatives of the state court system concern-  
25 ing judicial involvement with children;

26 (4) receive from representatives of the state court system  
27 requests for review and recommendations by the commission on matters re-  
28 lated to children;

29 (5) meet with representatives of private providers of services

1 to children, foster parents, and support groups to children;

2 (6) receive from individuals and providers of services to chil-  
3 dren requests for review and recommendations by the commission on matters  
4 related to children and the delivery of services to children;

5 (7) receive from members of the legislature requests for review  
6 and recommendations by the commission on matters related to children;

7 (8) inform leaders of the business community, education communi-  
8 ty, and municipalities and the communications media of the nature and scope  
9 of problems faced by children, in order to encourage their support in  
10 improving the delivery of services to children and state budgeting pro-  
11 cesses and state policies concerning children;

12 (9) serve as liaison between government and private groups  
13 concerned with children; and

14 (10) coordinate its activities with those of the Alaska Women's  
15 Commission on matters of mutual concern.

16 \* Sec. 5. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION. The commission may

17 (1) utilize legal, technical, secretarial, and administrative  
18 services as may be provided by the governor and the legislative council;

19 (2) utilize voluntary and uncompensated services of private  
20 persons and organizations as may be made available to the commission;

21 (3) hold public hearings; and

22 (4) take other actions reasonably necessary to achieve the  
23 purposes of the commission.

24 \* Sec. 6. This Act is repealed January 1, 1990.

25 \* Sec. 7. This Act takes effect July 1, 1988.