

Original sponsors: Collins, Phillips
and Menard

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 501 (State Affairs)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Alaska Children's Commis-
7 sion; and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. ALASKA CHILDREN'S COMMISSION. (a) The Alaska Children's
10 Commission is established in the Office of the Governor.

11 (b) The commission consists of the following persons:

12 (1) representatives designated by the governor from the Depart-
13 ment of Health and Social Services, the Department of Community and Region-
14 al Affairs, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Educa-
15 tion;

16 (2) a member of the senate appointed by the president of the
17 senate;

18 (3) a member of the house of representatives appointed by the
19 speaker of the house;

20 (4) six public members appointed by the governor who are in-
21 volved with children and issues affecting children;

22 (5) one member appointed by the governor who is not more than 21
23 years of age and who serves until the member reaches the age of 22 years.

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

26 (d) The members of the commission who are appointed by the governor
27 under (b)(4) and (5) of this section serve without compensation for their
28 service on the commission but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses
29 authorized by law for commissions under AS 39.20.180.

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

3 * Sec. 2. DUTIES OF COMMISSION. (a) The commission shall

4 (1) engage in a continuing review of the needs of and problems
5 facing children and develop effective, comprehensive, and coordinated
6 strategies to address those needs and problems;

7 (2) serve as an advocate for the interests of children;

8 (3) define the immediate service needs of children;

9 (4) develop minimum standards for care available to children and
10 families in the areas of child care, health, social services, parent and
11 staff training, nutrition, mental health, safety, and employment of youth;

12 (5) identify specific goals and strategies to achieve a minimum
13 standard for care of children, including state funding priorities for
14 prevention and early intervention services to meet the needs of children;

15 (6) identify the current level of services available and gaps
16 and overlaps in services to children;

17 (7) develop and recommend adoption of a process for monitoring
18 and evaluating children's programs, with emphasis on professionally coor-
19 dinated peer review and program enhancement;

20 (8) provide opportunities for the public to participate in the
21 planning and development of children's programs through public hearings,
22 teleconferences, and local community programs;

23 (9) meet with state officials and members of advisory committees
24 to state agencies that are responsible for the expenditure of state and
25 federal funds or for other matters on behalf of children;

26 (10) receive from state officials, members of state advisory
27 committees, legislators, representatives of the state court system, and
28 providers of children's services requests for review and recommendations by
29 the commission on matters related to children;

1 (11) serve as a statewide clearinghouse for model programs and
2 resources for technical assistance for children's programs;

3 (12) advocate studies and basic data collection on children;

4 (13) inform leaders of the business community, education com-
5 munity, and municipalities and the communications media of the nature and
6 scope of problems faced by children, in order to encourage their support
7 for improving the delivery of services to children and state budgeting
8 processes and state policies concerning children.

9 (b) In formulating the strategy to address the needs of and problems
10 facing children, the commission shall seek advice and information from
11 children's services providers with expertise in children's mental health,
12 health care including prenatal care, adolescent drug and alcohol treatment,
13 education including early childhood education, nonprofit funding sources,
14 child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, child care, dependency, delin-
15 quency and the justice system, and family support systems.

16 (c) The commission shall submit a report each year by the 15th day of
17 the legislative session to the governor and the legislature on the status
18 of children in the state and recommendations for improvements for the
19 delivery of children's services.

20 * Sec. 3. REVIEW OF LAWS. The commission shall review the laws of the
21 state with regard to matters involving children and shall make a report of
22 its findings and recommendations to the governor and the legislature by
23 January 1, 1991.

24 * Sec. 4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND STAFF SUPPORT TO THE COMMISSION.
25 The departments and agencies of the state shall cooperate with the commis-
26 sion and shall, subject to the availability of funding, provide technical
27 assistance and staff support to the commission upon the request of the
28 commission.

29 * Sec. 5. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION. The commission may

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

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

5 (3) hold public hearings;

6 (4) apply for and receive grants from public and private funding
7 sources, as may assist the commission in fulfilling its duties;

8 (5) hire staff as necessary to perform the duties of the commis-
9 sion; and

10 (6) take other actions reasonably necessary to achieve the
11 purposes of the commission.

12 * Sec. 6. This Act is repealed December 31, 1991.

13 * Sec. 7. This Act takes effect January 31, 1989.