

Introduced: 3/18/88
Referred: Health, Education and
Social Services and Judiciary

5-1916A

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

2

SENATE BILL NO. 495

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to mental health professionals."

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

8 * Section 1. AS 47.30.705 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 47.30.705. EMERGENCY DETENTION FOR EVALUATION. A peace
10 officer or a mental health professional [, A PSYCHIATRIST OR PHYSICIAN
11 WHO IS LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN THIS STATE OR EMPLOYED BY THE FEDERAL
12 GOVERNMENT, OR A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF
13 PSYCHOLOGISTS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS] who has probable cause to
14 believe that a person is gravely disabled or is suffering from mental
15 illness and is likely to cause serious harm to self or others of such
16 immediate nature that considerations of safety do not allow initiation
17 of involuntary commitment procedures set out in AS 47.30.700, may
18 cause the person to be taken into custody and delivered to the nearest
19 evaluation facility. A person taken into custody for emergency eval-
20 uation may not be placed in a jail or other correctional facility
21 except for protective custody purposes and only while awaiting trans-
22 portation to a treatment facility. The peace officer or mental
23 health professional shall complete an application for examination of
24 the person in custody and be interviewed by a mental health profes-
25 sional at the facility.

26 * Sec. 2. AS 47.30.915(11) is amended to read:

27 (11) "mental health professional" means a psychiatrist or
28 physician who is licensed to practice in this state or employed by the
29 federal government; a clinical psychologist licensed by the state

1 Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners; a psy-
2 chological associate trained in clinical psychology and licensed by
3 the Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners; a
4 registered nurse with a master's degree in psychiatric nursing, li-
5 censed by the State Board of Nursing; [AND] a social worker with a
6 master's degree in social work and substantial experience in the field
7 of mental illness; and a community counseling associate designated by
8 the division of mental health and developmental disabilities; in this
9 paragraph "community counseling associate" means a person without a
10 professional degree who resides in, and is employed as a counselor in,
11 a rural area of the state;