

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 66

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Alaska Commission on Chil-
7 dren and Youth; and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 39.50.200(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to
10 read:

11 (50) Alaska Commission on Children and Youth (AS 44.19.550).

12 * Sec. 2. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

13 ARTICLE 17. ALASKA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

14 Sec. 44.19.550. CREATION OF COMMISSION. There is created in the
15 Office of the Governor the Alaska Commission on Children and Youth.

16 Sec. 44.19.551. COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT. The commission
17 consists of four executive-branch members and three public members,
18 who are appointed by, and serve in that capacity at the pleasure of,
19 the governor. The commission shall elect one of its members as chair-
20 person and the chairperson may appoint other officers as necessary.

21 Sec. 44.19.553. TERMS OF OFFICE. The term of office of a member
22 of the commission is three years, except that initial appointees shall
23 be designated by the governor to serve as follows: two members serve
24 for one year, two for two years, and three for three years. A vacancy
25 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A
26 person appointed to a vacancy serves for the unexpired portion of the
27 term.

28 Sec. 44.19.555. COMPENSATION. Public members of the commission
29 serve without compensation for their services but are entitled to per

1 diem and travel allowances authorized under AS 39.20.180.

2 Sec. 44.19.557. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION. The commission may

3 (1) use legal, technical, secretarial, and administrative
4 services as may be provided by the governor;

5 (2) use voluntary and uncompensated services of private
6 persons and organizations as may be made available to the commission;

7 (3) receive, and use for operating purposes, money from the
8 federal government or other sources;

9 (4) hold public hearings;

10 (5) hire an executive director and such technical and
11 clerical staff as necessary to perform the duties of the commission;
12 and

13 (6) take other actions reasonably necessary to carry out
14 the duties of the commission.

15 Sec. 44.19.559. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION. (a) The commission
16 shall develop a comprehensive statewide plan that identifies the needs
17 of children and youth and makes recommendations to enhance their
18 quality of life. In meeting this charge, the commission may

19 (1) recommend the services and programs that should be
20 available for children and families in the areas of child care,
21 health, social services, education, child protection, parent and staff
22 training, nutrition, mental health, safety, and employment of youth;

23 (2) identify the service needs of children and where gaps
24 and overlaps in services exist;

25 (3) monitor the emerging needs of and problems facing
26 children, and develop effective, comprehensive, and coordinated strat-
27 egies to address those needs and problems;

28 (4) develop and recommend adoption of a process for moni-
29 toring and evaluating children's programs;

- 1 (5) provide opportunities for the public to participate in
2 the planning and development of children's programs and policies;
- 3 (6) receive, and act upon, requests for recommendations
4 from state officials, members of state advisory committees, legisla-
5 tors, representatives of the state court system, and providers of
6 children's services on matters related to children and youth;
- 7 (7) meet with and make recommendations to state officials
8 and members of advisory committees who are responsible for the expen-
9 diture of state and federal money;
- 10 (8) serve as a statewide clearinghouse for government and
11 nongovernment programs and resources relating to children, youth, and
12 families;
- 13 (9) serve as an advocate for the interests of children by
14 informing the public, including leaders of the business community,
15 educators, local and state officials, the legal system, and the commu-
16 nications media of the nature and scope of problems faced by children;
- 17 (10) coordinate efforts and consult and cooperate with
18 persons, organizations, and groups, including other boards and com-
19 missions, interested in the problems and concerns of children and
20 youth; and
- 21 (11) make recommendations to the governor, legislature, and
22 state officials with respect to legislation, regulations, and appro-
23 priations for programs or services that benefit children and youth.
- 24 (b) In formulating the strategy to address the needs of and
25 problems facing children, the commission shall seek advice and infor-
26 mation from parents, children, youth, and children's services pro-
27 viders, including those with expertise in the areas of mental health,
28 health care, prenatal care, adolescent drug and alcohol treatment,
29 education, early childhood education, nonprofit funding sources, child

1 abuse and neglect, domestic violence, child care, dependence, delin-
2 quency and the justice system, and family support systems.

3 (c) The commission shall prepare and publish an annual report on
4 the status of children in the state and its recommendations and pro-
5 posals for change. The commission shall provide the governor and the
6 legislature with copies of the report by the 15th day of each regular
7 legislative session.

8 (d) The commission may review the laws of the state with regard
9 to matters involving children. If a review is done, the commission
10 shall prepare and publish a report of its findings and recommendations
11 and provide the governor and the legislature with copies by January 1,
12 1991.

13 Sec. 44.19.560. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND STAFF SUPPORT. The
14 executive branch departments shall cooperate with the commission and
15 provide technical assistance to the commission upon the request of the
16 commission.

17 * Sec. 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are repealed June 30, 1994.

18 * Sec. 4. AS 47.50.010, 47.50.020, 47.50.030, 47.50.040, and 47.50.050
19 are repealed.

20 * Sec. 5. This Act takes effect July 1, 1989.