

BY REP. ELLIS

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 538

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act authorizing a child visitation mediation  
7 project; and providing for an effective date."

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

9 \* Section 1. CHILD VISITATION MEDIATION PROJECT. (a) The office of  
10 public advocacy may establish a regional child visitation mediation demon-  
11 stration project. Based on the advice of the council established under (d)  
12 of this section, the office shall select a contractor who will mediate  
13 child visitation disputes that are referred to the office by a court or by  
14 the child support enforcement agency in the Department of Revenue.

15 (b) The child support enforcement agency or a court may refer a  
16 dispute concerning child visitation issues to the office of public advocacy  
17 for mediation under this section.

18 (c) Participation in mediation under this section is voluntary for  
19 all parties, but their failure to participate may be reported to a court.  
20 A parent who refuses to participate in mediation under this section shall  
21 be notified in writing by the project contractor that the refusal may be  
22 reported to a court.

23 (d) There is established in the office of public advocacy an advisory  
24 council to advise the office concerning the demonstration project author-  
25 ized under this section. The council may make recommendations concerning  
26 the choice of contractor, the location and implementation of the project,  
27 and how the success of the project should be measured. The advisory coun-  
28 cil consists of

29 (1) a representative of the judicial branch, appointed by the

1 chief justice of the supreme court;

2 (2) an employee of the child support enforcement agency, ap-  
3 pointed by the commissioner of revenue;

4 (3) a legislator, appointed by the Alaska Legislative Council;  
5 and

6 (4) four parents, two of whom are custodial parents and two of  
7 whom have visitation rights to their children who are in the custody of the  
8 other parent, appointed by the governor

9 (e) The office of public advocacy shall report to the legislature by  
10 January 30, 1992, concerning the operation of the demonstration project  
11 authorized under this section and its recommendations on whether the proj-  
12 ect should be expanded to all areas of the state.

13 \* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1990.