

**HOUSE BILL NO. 243**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES C.DAVIS, Ulmer, Ellis, Foster**

**Introduced: 3/27/91**

**Referred: Health, Education & Social Services, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act directing the Department of Health and Social Services to develop a statewide  
2 plan and conduct a statewide public awareness campaign relating to adolescent pregnancy  
3 prevention and services for adolescent parents and their children; and establishing a  
4 program to fund adolescent pregnancy and parenthood projects."

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

6 \* Section 1. AS 47 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

7 CHAPTER 18. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

8 RELATED TO ADOLESCENTS.

9 ARTICLE 1. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING.

10 Sec. 47.18.010. DEVELOPMENT OF STATEWIDE PLAN. (a) With the advice of the  
11 Alaska Commission on Children and Youth, the department shall develop a comprehensive  
12 statewide plan to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of state programs that relate to the  
13 prevention of adolescent pregnancy and the provision of services to adolescent parents and their  
14 children.

1 (b) The plan developed under (a) of this section must  
2 (1) include existing programs and services of state government;  
3 (2) examine and consider the achievements and experiences of projects that have  
4 been funded under AS 47.18.100 - 47.18.140;  
5 (3) make recommendations with regard to the need for new or expanded programs  
6 and services;  
7 (4) make recommendations concerning the incremental implementation of the  
8 plan.

9 (c) The Department of Education, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs,  
10 and the Department of Labor shall assist the department in developing the plan required under  
11 (a) of this section. In addition, through appropriate means, the department shall solicit advice  
12 from teens, parents, educators, school administrators, taxpayers, civic groups, community  
13 organizations, Native organizations, officials of local governments, religious institutions, and  
14 other concerned persons about how state programs can be coordinated and operated in a manner  
15 that will enhance their effectiveness and efficiency in addressing the many needs associated with  
16 adolescent parenting and the prevention of adolescent pregnancies.

17 ARTICLE 2. PUBLIC INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS.

18 Sec. 47.18.050. PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN. (a) The department shall develop  
19 and implement statewide a continuing public awareness campaign, including appropriate public  
20 forums and workshops, radio and television public service announcements, and press releases  
21 designed to

22 (1) communicate to the public the scope and magnitude of the adolescent  
23 pregnancy and parenthood problem in the state;

24 (2) encourage community activities that will educate adults and adolescents about  
25 the importance of reducing adolescent pregnancy;

26 (3) enlist the active support and involvement of members of the public and  
27 community organizations in the development and implementation of community based programs  
28 and activities to reduce adolescent pregnancy and assist adolescent parents in obtaining needed  
29 educational, vocational, and parenting skills.

30 (b) A primary policy and objective of the public awareness campaign required under (a)  
31 of this section shall be to encourage adolescents to abstain from premarital sexual intimacy.



- 1 (2) is based on sound research, to the maximum extent possible;  
2 (3) will maximize collaboration among all relevant agencies involved in the needs  
3 being addressed by the project;  
4 (4) includes an evaluation component to measure project effectiveness;  
5 (5) includes a public awareness campaign component.

6 Sec. 47.18.140. PROMOTION OF PROGRAM AND PROJECTS. (a) The department  
7 shall take appropriate actions to publicize the availability of funds under AS 47.18.100 -  
8 47.18.140.

9 (b) The department shall annually conduct regional conferences or workshops across the  
10 state to

11 (1) showcase the activities and achievements of projects funded under  
12 AS 47.18.100 - 47.18.140 for which the evaluation components have shown a high level of  
13 success;

14 (2) encourage and support the replication of these successful projects; and

15 (3) increase public awareness of the availability of state administered services and  
16 programs to address the many problems associated with adolescent pregnancy and parenthood.

17 ARTICLE 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

18 Sec. 47.18.900. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "department" means the Department of  
19 Health and Social Services.