CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 248 (HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/29/91
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES LINCOLN, Gruenberg

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act requiring the medical assistance program to cover psychologists' services and**
2 **clinical social workers' services; and reordering the priorities granted to services covered**
3 **under the medical assistance program."**

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

5 *** Section 1.** AS 47.07.030(b) is amended to read:
6 (b) In addition to the mandatory services specified in (a) of this section, the department
7 may offer only the following optional services: case management and nutrition services for
8 pregnant women; personal care services in a recipient's home; emergency hospital services;
9 long-term care noninstitutional services; medical supplies and equipment; clinic services; inpatient
10 psychiatric facility services for individuals age 65 or older and individuals under age 21;
11 **psychologists' services; clinical social workers' services;** prescribed drugs; physical therapy;
12 occupational therapy; chiropractic services; treatment of speech, hearing, and language disorders;
13 adult dental services; prosthetic devices and eyeglasses; optometrists' services; intermediate care
14 facility services, including intermediate care facility services for the mentally retarded; skilled

1 nursing facility services for individuals under age 21; and reasonable transportation to and from
2 the point of medical care.
3 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.07.035 is amended to read:
4 Sec. 47.07.035. PRIORITY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. If the department finds that
5 the cost of medical assistance for all persons eligible under this chapter will exceed the amount
6 allocated in the state budget for that assistance for the fiscal year, the department shall eliminate
7 coverage for optional medical services and optionally eligible groups of individuals in the
8 following order:
9 (1) chiropractic services;
10 (2) adult dental services;
11 (3) emergency hospital services;
12 (4) treatment of speech, hearing, and language disorders;
13 (5) optometrists' services and eyeglasses;
14 (6) occupational therapy;
15 (7) prosthetic devices;
16 (8) medical supplies and equipment;
17 (9) **clinical social workers' services;**
18 **(10) psychologists' services;**
19 (11) clinic services;
20 (12) [(10)] physical therapy;
21 (13) [(11)] personal care services in a recipient's home;
22 (14) [(12)] prescribed drugs;
23 (15) [(13)] long-term care noninstitutional services;
24 (16) [(14)] inpatient psychiatric facility services;
25 (17) [(15)] intermediate care facility services for the mentally retarded;
26 (18) [(16)] intermediate care facility services;
27 (19) [(17) REPEALED
28 (18)] individuals under age 21 who are not eligible for benefits under the federal
29 aid to families with dependent children program because they are not deprived of one or more
30 of their natural or adoptive parents;
31 (20) [(19)] skilled nursing facility services for persons under age 21;

1 (21) [(20)] aged, blind, and disabled individuals who, because they do not meet
2 the income requirements, do not receive supplemental security income under Title XVI
3 of the Social Security Act, but who are eligible, or would be eligible if they were not in
4 a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility, to receive an optional state
5 supplementary payment;
6 (22) [(21)] individuals in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, or intermediate care
7 facility whose income while in the facility does not exceed 300 percent of the supplemental
8 security income benefit rate under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, but who, because of
9 income, are not eligible for the optional state supplementary payment;
10 (23) [(22)] individuals under age 21 under supervision of the department, for
11 whom maintenance is being paid in whole or in part from public money and who are in foster
12 homes or private child-care institutions.
13 * **Sec. 3.** AS 47.07.900 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:
14 (11) "clinical social workers' services" means clinical social work services
15 provided by a person licensed as a clinical social worker under AS 08.95;
16 (12) "psychologists' services" means services within the practice of psychology
17 provided by a person licensed as a psychologist or psychological associate under AS 08.86.