

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 255 (HES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/6/91
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES ELLIS, C.Davis, Ulmer

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to a peer counselor program."

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

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

4 **CHAPTER 18. ADOLESCENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

5 **Sec. 47.18.010. PEER COUNSELOR PROGRAM.** (a) The department shall develop
6 and implement a continuing statewide program of technical support and assistance to encourage
7 school districts, municipalities, and nonprofit corporations incorporated under AS 10.20 that
8 initiate implementation, or that are considering implementation, of adolescent peer counseling
9 groups under adult supervision for

10 (1) prevention of adolescent behavioral patterns that jeopardize physical and
11 mental health and that hamper social, educational, and personal development; and

12 (2) spreading information about services that are available to adolescents to help
13 them with their health needs.

14 (b) The program of technical support required under (a) of this section must include

1 (1) suggested methods for maintaining a high level of adolescent, parental, and
2 community support for peer counseling groups;

3 (2) workshops, seminars, or other training opportunities for adolescent peer
4 counselors and their adult leaders; this training must include sessions to

5 (A) develop interpersonal communications skills;

6 (B) teach accurate health information, emphasizing sexual development;

7 (C) provide information about services that are available in the peer
8 counselors' areas and how those services can be obtained for pregnancy prevention,
9 prenatal care, and healthy life skills; and

10 (D) encourage adolescents to avoid major risk-taking behavior and to
11 reinforce responsible behavior and self control;

12 (3) assistance in selecting appropriate resource materials for the groups;

13 (4) recommended mechanisms for effectively monitoring and evaluating the
14 activities and accomplishments of the groups; and

15 (5) other similar services to assist and encourage school districts, municipalities,
16 and nonprofit corporations incorporated under AS 10.20 in establishing and administering
17 adolescent peer counseling groups.

18 (c) In developing the program of technical support and assistance required under (a) of
19 this section, the department shall review and consider the activities and accomplishments in other
20 states that have developed peer counseling networks. The department shall solicit contributions
21 of money and expertise from the private sector that may be available for this type of program.