HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 59 (HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/22/91
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS FAHRENKAMP, Uehling, Pourchot, Rodey, Menard, Collins

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act to establish the Alaska Interagency Task Force on the Homeless; and providing**
2 **for an effective date."**

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

4 * **Section 1.** FINDINGS. The legislature finds that
5 (1) homelessness is gradually being recognized as a significant and widespread problem
6 in both urban and rural parts of the United States, including Alaska;
7 (2) the diverse causes and characteristics of homelessness are endemic to various
8 combinations of overlapping factors including unemployment, underemployment, deinstitutionalization,
9 mental illness, the lack of affordable housing, domestic violence, parentless children, and other less
10 visible personal crises;
11 (3) the diversity of factors contributing to homelessness require combinations of programs
12 and measures to relieve the causes and characteristics, including temporary shelters, social services,
13 physical and mental health programs, long-term affordable housing, community development, and
14 institutionalization;

1 (4) in order for the state to increase its effectiveness in the battle against homelessness,
2 we must first understand the scope and nature of the problem and examine the responses to the problem
3 that are currently being utilized by the federal government, our state government, and by the "third
4 sector", private and nonprofit groups and organizations; and
5 (5) numerous states and the federal government have established councils or task forces
6 on the homeless as an effective way to collect and exchange information and resources, reduce
7 duplication of effort, identify ways in which the homeless may be better served and the homeless
8 problem better addressed, and to develop a coordinated response to combat homelessness and to most
9 effectively use limited resources;
10 (6) the needs of the homeless would be better served by the development of a field
11 network to share professional and technical expertise among federal agencies, state agencies, local
12 governments, and private and nonprofit organizations serving the homeless.
13 * Sec. 2. ALASKA INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON THE HOMELESS ESTABLISHED. (a)
14 The Alaska Interagency Task Force on the Homeless is established under the jurisdiction of the
15 legislative council.
16 (b) The task force consists of 18 members appointed as follows:
17 (1) 16 members appointed by the legislative council as follows:
18 (A) three members from the Department of Health and Social Services who are
19 the directors or program administrators or their designees in the following areas:
20 (i) mental health;
21 (ii) alcoholism and drug abuse; and
22 (iii) public assistance;
23 (B) one member from the Department of Community and Regional Affairs who
24 is the director or program administrator for rural development or the designee of the member;
25 (C) one member from the Department of Education who is the director or program
26 administrator for adult education or the designee of the member;
27 (D) one member from the Department of Administration who is the director or
28 program administrator of the office of public advocacy or the designee of the member;
29 (E) one member from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs;
30 (F) one member who is the executive director of the Alaska State Housing
31 Authority or the designee of the member;

1 (G) one member from the United States Department of Housing and Urban
2 Development;
3 (H) one member from the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual
4 Assault;
5 (I) one member from the Alaska Job Service;
6 (J) one member from the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of
7 Indian Affairs;
8 (K) two members from the Alaska Coalition for the Homeless; and
9 (L) two members, one each from two communities that have an identified
10 homeless population; one member shall be from a community with a population of less than
11 1,000 people;
12 (2) one member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate;
13 (3) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house
14 of representatives.
15 (c) Members of the task force serve without compensation, but are entitled to per diem and travel
16 expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.
17 * **Sec. 3.** MEETINGS. The Alaska Interagency Task Force on the Homeless shall, when possible,
18 meet by teleconference.
19 * **Sec. 4.** DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. The Alaska Interagency Task Force on the Homeless shall
20 (1) collect and disseminate information relating to the homeless;
21 (2) study and report on the best means to establish a field network of professional and
22 technical expertise to assist federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, and private and nonprofit
23 agencies serving the homeless;
24 (3) recommend changes in statutes, regulations, procedures, and policy to reduce
25 duplication of effort among federal, state, and local agencies; and
26 (4) review, monitor, evaluate, and recommend improvements in federal, state, and local
27 programs to assist the homeless.
28 * **Sec. 5.** POWERS OF TASK FORCE. The Alaska Interagency Task Force on the Homeless may
29 request the cooperation, provision of technical assistance, and may utilize the services of executive
30 branch departments, federal agencies, local governments, consultants whose advice is considered
31 necessary to assist the task force in obtaining information, or any other person or entity to assist the task

1 force in fulfilling its duties under this Act.

2 * **Sec. 6.** REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) The Alaska Interagency Task Force on the
3 Homeless shall submit to the legislature by the third day of the Second Session of the Seventeenth
4 Alaska State Legislature a preliminary report of

5 (1) its proceedings for the previous year and its fulfillment of its duties under sec. 3 of
6 this Act;

7 (2) its assessment of the nature and extent of the problems of the homeless in the state;

8 (3) the levels of state and local assistance necessary to meet their needs; and

9 (4) recommendations for legislative and administrative action to alleviate the problems
10 of the homeless.

11 (b) The task force shall submit a final complete report no later than June 30, 1992.

12 * **Sec. 7.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1991.

13 * **Sec. 8.** This Act is repealed June 30, 1992.