

SENATE BILL NO. 62

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR FAHRENKAMP

Introduced: 1/21/91

Referred: C&RA, HESS and Finance

A BILL**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act requiring the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, with the advice
2 and cooperation of the Department of Health and Social Services, to establish and evaluate
3 a pilot housing search service project for the homeless and those in temporary or unsafe
4 housing; and providing for an effective date."

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

6 * **Section 1. PILOT HOUSING SEARCH SERVICE PROJECT.** (a) A pilot housing search service
7 project is established to address the needs of the homeless, those in temporary housing, and those in
8 unsafe housing. In order to determine if the best interests of the homeless, the state, and its communities
9 would best be served by a concerted effort to locate available permanent housing for the homeless, by
10 placement assistance in that housing, and by continuing assistance to ensure the success of the
11 placement, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, with the advice and cooperation of the
12 Department of Health and Social Services, shall

13 (1) establish a pilot housing search service project for the homeless; the project shall
14 utilize housing specialists who shall seek out and locate permanent housing for the homeless and those

1 in temporary and unsafe housing, assist in the placement in the permanent housing, and provide
2 continuing support services to ensure the success of the housing placement; the project shall be located
3 in and serve the homeless in at least two communities of the state; the project may be based upon a
4 similar program conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Welfare, Director of Housing Search
5 Services; and

6 (2) evaluate the pilot housing search service project created under (1) of this subsection;
7 the evaluation shall measure

8 (A) the success of the project in terms of its ability to promote and serve the best
9 interests of the homeless;

10 (B) the success of the project in terms of its ability to locate housing and to place
11 the homeless in that housing in relation to existing efforts to perform those functions;

12 (C) the satisfaction of the legitimate and appropriate needs and concerns of the
13 homeless and the landlords who participate in the program;

14 (D) the project's efficiency;

15 (E) the project's economy;

16 (F) the project's success in reducing payments by the state for emergency or
17 temporary housing;

18 (G) whether the project has decreased the time required to place a person or
19 family that is homeless or resides in temporary or unsafe housing in permanent housing;

20 (H) whether the project has identified or discovered additional housing or
21 increased the amount of housing not previously available to the homeless or to low or moderate
22 income persons or families; and

23 (I) whether the project has alleviated the homeless problem and associated social
24 service problems in the communities in which the project was located.

25 (b) In establishing the pilot housing search service project under (a) of this section, the
26 Department of Community and Regional Affairs shall consult with

27 (1) the State of Massachusetts and, if appropriate, other states to determine their
28 experience with housing search services and obtain their recommendations relating to housing search
29 services;

30 (2) the Department of Health and Social Services to establish criteria for referrals of
31 qualified persons and families for assistance by the project; and

1 (3) municipalities and community based social service or assistance organizations,
2 including the operators and management of temporary shelters, concerning the scope, design, and
3 eligibility of participants.

4 (c) In establishing the pilot housing search service project under (a) of this section, the
5 Department of Community and Regional Affairs may contract with nonprofit community based
6 organizations or shelters to perform the housing specialist activities. The department may not contract
7 for the performance of the evaluation and report required by this Act except that the department may
8 require a contractor to compile information and submit reports necessary to the completion of the
9 evaluation and report. A contract extended into under this subsection is exempt from the requirements
10 of AS 36.30.

11 (d) Personally identifiable information obtained by a housing specialist or the Department of
12 Community and Regional Affairs in the performance of duties and responsibilities under this section is
13 confidential and is not a public record for purposes of AS 09.25.110 - 09.25.140.

14 * Sec. 2. PROJECT EVALUATION. (a) The Department of Community and Regional Affairs shall
15 complete the evaluation required under sec. 1(a)(2) of this Act and report the evaluation to the legislature
16 by February 1, 1993.

17 (b) The Department of Community and Regional Affairs shall submit an interim report
18 concerning the results of the consultations with other entities and with the progress of the project by
19 February 1, 1992.

20 * Sec. 3. USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS. The Department of Community and Regional Affairs shall
21 apply for federal funds that may be available for the pilot housing search service project.

22 * Sec. 4. This Act is repealed February 2, 1993.

23 * Sec. 5. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).