

SENATE BILL NO. 170

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS PEARCE, Uehling, Zharoff, Collins

Introduced: 3/6/91

Referred: HES and 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 ARTICLE 3. ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PROJECTS.

2 Sec. 47.18.100. STATE FUNDING AUTHORIZED. In order to encourage and support
3 community based initiatives to combat the many problems associated with adolescent pregnancy
4 and parenthood, the department shall, from appropriations for that purpose, give grants or award
5 contracts to fund up to 90 percent of the cost of local projects designed to prevent adolescent
6 pregnancy and assist adolescent parents in obtaining needed educational, vocational, and
7 parenting skills.

8 Sec. 47.18.110. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS. (a) Projects funded under AS 47.18.100 shall
9 be designed with a holistic approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of adolescent
10 parenthood and a broad array of related circumstances, such as low self-esteem, domestic
11 violence, substance abuse, economic security, financial responsibilities of having a child, cultural
12 integrity, sources of adolescent stress, parenting skills, educational and vocational opportunities,
13 and access to reproductive health services.

14 (b) Projects funded under AS 47.10.100 may include one or more of the following types
15 of activities:

- 16 (1) family life education;
- 17 (2) counseling services for adolescents who are, or who may think they are,
18 pregnant or who want to avoid pregnancy;
- 19 (3) prenatal care for pregnant adolescents;
- 20 (4) job training and placement for adolescent parents;
- 21 (5) educational and support services for adolescent parents;
- 22 (6) other activities that, in the judgment of the department, are likely to have a
23 tangible effect on combating a problem associated with adolescent pregnancy or parenthood.

24 Sec. 47.18.120. APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT FUNDING. (a) A person or group
25 seeking funding under AS 47.18.100 shall apply to the department on a form provided by the
26 department.

27 (b) When applying under (a) of this section, the applicant must demonstrate to the
28 satisfaction of the department that the proposed project

- 29 (1) has been designed with extensive assistance from local community members
30 who represent a variety of interests, cultures, and perspectives on adolescent pregnancy and
31 parenthood;

- 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.