

SENATE BILL NO. 172
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS PEARCE, Uehling, Zharoff

Introduced: 3/6/91
Referred: HES and Finance

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 and municipalities that initiate implementation, or that are considering
8 implementation, of adolescent peer counseling groups for

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

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

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

14 (1) suggested methods for maintaining a high level of adolescent, parental, and

1 community support for peer counseling groups;

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

4 (A) develop interpersonal communications skills;

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

6 and

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;

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

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

13 (5) other similar services to assist and encourage school districts and
14 municipalities in establishing and administering adolescent peer counseling groups.

15 (c) In developing the program of technical support and assistance required under (a) of
16 this section, the department shall review and consider the activities and accomplishments in other
17 states that have developed peer counseling networks and shall avail itself of the resources of the
18 National Association of Teen Institutes, Saint Louis, Missouri. The department shall solicit
19 contributions of money and expertise from the private sector that may be available for this type
20 of program.

21 (d) A primary policy and objective of the program of technical support and assistance
22 required under (a) of this section shall be to encourage adolescents to abstain from premarital
23 sexual intimacy.