

HOUSE BILL NO. 88 am
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES BUNDE, Toohey, Porter, Martin, Sanders, B.Davis

Amended: 2/10/93
Introduced: 1/25/93

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing May 1 as Family Day and the month of May as
2 Preservation of the Family Month; and relating to the prevention of child abuse
3 and neglect in the family."

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

5 * Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature makes the following findings:

6 (1) the term "Mayday" is a call for help, alerting others of distress and danger;

7 (2) Alaska children are in danger, as demonstrated by the fact that

8 (A) Alaska has the worst rate of child death and violent teen death in
9 the country; and

10 (B) nationally, a child dies from poverty every 53 minutes and a child
11 is abused or neglected every 13 seconds;

12 (3) the institution of the family has been in great danger of a gradual
13 disintegration for a long time, and people need to pay immediate attention to preserving the
14 family;

1 (4) in the month of May, people celebrate Mother's Day, which should remind
2 people of the famous quotation, "the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the
3 world";

4 (5) everyone agrees that the parental role is important in a society and that a
5 loving and caring family creates the best environment for the healthy growth of children;

6 (6) May 1 follows a month, April, that is dedicated to the prevention of child
7 abuse;

8 (7) May also represents early spring, the growth of flowers, and the
9 rejuvenation of plants, life, and activity in nature.

10 * Sec. 2. AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11 Sec. 44.12.075. FAMILY DAY AND FAMILY PRESERVATION MONTH.

12 Family Day is established on May 1 of each year to celebrate the institution of the
13 family. The month of May each year is established as Preservation of the Family
14 Month to encourage the preservation of the institution of the family. Family Day and
15 Preservation of the Family Month may be observed by suitable observances by families
16 such as a family discussion of the role of families, the changing definition of the
17 family in modern society, the rights of children and the responsibilities of parents, and
18 appropriate methods for resolution of violent feelings in family conflict, and exercises
19 by civic groups and the public. In observance of Family Preservation Month, the
20 Department of Health and Social Services as a part of its annual report shall make
21 recommendations to the legislature to encourage the prevention of child abuse and
22 neglect in Alaska families.