

## SENATE BILL NO. 259

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR ELLIS

Introduced: 1/24/94  
Referred: HES, L&C, FIN

## A BILL

## FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing the Alaska Public Health Commission."

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

3 \* Section 1. PURPOSE. The legislature finds that there is a compelling need for a strong,  
4 clear focus on public health issues in the interest of protecting and promoting the public health  
5 of the residents of the state. The legislature further finds that this focus can be best achieved  
6 by the establishment of a commission with the primary responsibility for developing a plan  
7 to improve the public health system in the state in a way that ensures equity of access by all  
8 state residents to the state's public health resources.

9 \* Sec. 2. ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ESTABLISHED. (a) There is  
10 established the Alaska Public Health Commission. For budgetary purposes, the commission  
11 is located within the Department of Health and Social Services. The commission consists of  
12 10 members as follows:

13 (1) the commissioner of health and social services or a designee appointed by  
14 the commissioner;

1                   (2) the commissioner of environmental conservation or a designee appointed  
2 by the commissioner;

3                   (3) a person appointed by the governor to represent the interests of local  
4 governments;

5                   (4) a person appointed by the governor who has no interest in health care other  
6 than as a consumer of health care;

7                   (5) five other persons appointed by the governor with due consideration for the  
8 need to have representation on the commission for public and private health care professionals,  
9 labor organizations, businesses, the education system, the Alaska Public Health Association,  
10 and the Alaska Native Health Board; and

11                   (6) one person representing the Alaska Area Native Health Service if that  
12 agency wishes to participate; this person shall serve as a nonvoting member of the  
13 commission.

14                   (b) The governor shall attempt to appoint members of the commission so that the  
15 commission reflects the geographical, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the state.

16                   (c) The members of the commission serve for the duration of the commission, but  
17 may resign or be replaced by the governor at any time without cause.

18                   (d) The members of the commission shall select from among the voting members a  
19 chair and other officers considered necessary by the members.

20       \* **Sec. 3. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.** (a) The commission shall  
21 develop, monitor implementation of, and every two years update a plan to improve the public  
22 health system in the state. The plan must include the features identified in sec. 4 of this Act.  
23 The commission shall develop and update the plan in consultation with

24                   (1) the residents of the state;

25                   (2) the Departments of Health and Social Services, Environmental  
26 Conservation, and Labor;

27                   (3) the Alaska Native Health Board;

28                   (4) Alaska Native health corporations;

29                   (5) the United States Indian Health Service;

30                   (6) the United States Department of Defense;

31                   (7) the Alaska Public Health Association;

1 (8) the University of Alaska; and  
2 (9) other appropriate government agencies and organizations, as determined  
3 by the commission.

4 (b) In order to accomplish its duties under (a) of this section, the commission may  
5 (1) appoint a director and hire staff;  
6 (2) collect and assemble data;  
7 (3) draft recommendations and prepare reports;  
8 (4) hold hearings and solicit advice;  
9 (5) require state agencies to report to the commission on the extent to which  
10 their activities are consistent with the plan developed under (a) of this section and sec. 4 of  
11 this Act.

12 \* Sec. 4. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN. (a) The plan developed by the  
13 commission must recognize the need for

14 (1) community involvement in health care planning and delivery;  
15 (2) attention to local needs that may vary from place to place;  
16 (3) accountability for the use of public funds;  
17 (4) equity and stability in the distribution of public funds;  
18 (5) shared responsibility of all levels of government for administering and  
19 financing public health care delivery; and  
20 (6) coordination of basic public health services.

21 (b) The plan must include  
22 (1) an analysis of the health status of the residents of the state;  
23 (2) an assessment of the most appropriate role for various levels of government  
24 to play in addressing the health care needs of the residents of the state;  
25 (3) a delineation of the standards that should be used in performing assessment,  
26 policy development, and quality assurance in the delivery of public health services;  
27 (4) documentation of the extent to which the current public health system  
28 implements or achieves the standards identified under (3) of this subsection;  
29 (5) identification of interjurisdictional issues involved in health care access and  
30 delivery;  
31 (6) recommendations, including recommendations for specific legislative action

1 when necessary, pertaining to the following:

2 (A) strategies, time lines, financial needs, and specific sources of stable  
3 revenue for bringing the state public health care system up to standards identified by  
4 the commission;

5 (B) appropriate sharing of the responsibility of local, regional, state,  
6 and federal government entities to deliver public health care services efficiently and  
7 effectively, including recommendations for organization within state government;

8 (C) integration of the public health care system with state and national  
9 health care reform efforts;

10 (D) the commission's estimate of the optimal share that public health  
11 should represent in the total health care delivery system of the state, expressed in terms  
12 of a percentage of health care dollars spent or in terms of public dollars per state  
13 resident.

14 \* Sec. 5. DEFINITIONS. In this Act,

15 (1) "commission" means the Alaska Public Health Commission;

16 (2) "plan" means the public health improvement plan developed by the  
17 commission.

18 \* Sec. 6. The governor shall make appointments to the Alaska Public Health Commission  
19 in a timely fashion so that the members may develop the initial public health improvement  
20 plan and report it to the legislature by January 1, 1995.

21 \* Sec. 7. This Act is repealed June 30, 2001.