

HB

395



Alaska State Legislature

House

JUNEAU ALASKA

HESS COMMITTEE MEETING

May 17, 1975

Members Present:

Bierne Ostrosky
Hackney Sullivan
Osterback Swanson

Testifying Guests:

Dr. Price

Chairman Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.

HB 395 Registry of Persons with Impairments

Bierne: The Senate version of this bill, I believe, has met with some problems.

Price: Yes. It has been returned to Senate Committee. They are having problems with who is to be determined as handicapped, and with establishing safeguards to ensure confidentiality. They have cut the list of impairments to be registered to cerebral palsy, mental retardation, epilepsy, and genital transmitted defects. It believe that this cut was a mistake.

Bierne: The bill requires some rewording so that it would ensure that this does not impinge upon individual rights.

Parr: We can only justify voluntary registry.

Price: I'm afraid that with the voluntary thing, we would have nowhere near the potential effectiveness for protection of those individuals with impairments.

Ostrosky: What use is presently made of the register?

Price: When a doctor must treat one of these persons, he can work with a consultant who knows the patient's specific problem. The register can also assist the State in determining where special clinics are needed, and the register can be used in applying for federal funds. This knowledge would also function for prevention in streptococci related impairments.

It was decided that this bill be held in Committee.

HF 329 Pupil Transportation

Ostrosky: I move that line 13 should be changed to " must be based upon two competitive bids" rather than three. There was a problem in our community where there were only two competitors, and there are no stipulations for this.

This amendment was unanimously passed.

Swanson: I think that we should omit item (g). The department will write negotiating contracts right into it. We need a review committee to go over administrative regulation written by the departments.

The role of the departments in determining regulations was briefly discussed.

Hackney: There is an error in line 23. "Read" should probably be "reach".

This amendment was passed without objection.

HB 329 was passed out with the two amendments. There was no objection.

CSSB-367 Centralization of Correspondence Study

Sullivan: I believe that there are many people who want this bill, so I would like to get it passed out.

Hackney: I would like to hear more testimony. I have heard two conflicting stories.

Ostrosky: I think I have figured it out. The general operating theory of the Department of Education has lately been to decentralize programs. Correspondence Study, however, has been very successful on a centralized basis.

Sullivan: From what I understand, grades 1 - 8 have been handled by S.O.S., and high school grades, more satisfactorily, by Margaret Justice. The intent of the bill is to put them all under Margaret Justice.

Hackney: I am not hung up either way on the bill. I just want to be sure that there is a viable option to the local schools open to those who want one.

Sullivan: The way it is now handled, school districts are being paid for correspondence students.

Hackney: School districts get about \$1700 per student, and only \$250 reverts to the Department.

Sullivan: I think we should get that excess money out of the boroughs and give a larger amount to the Department for the correspondence program.

Hackney: Why don't we pass this bill out with a letter of intent stating that we want this money to be given to the centralized program.

Sullivan: I agree. In the letter we could state that the school districts should not be funded for correspondence students, and that a larger percentage of that money should go to the Department for correspondence programs.

The bill was passed out with a "do pass" recommendation. One member objected with four concurring. Rep. Bierne had had to leave prior to the vote.



Alaska State Legislature House

JUNEAU ALASKA

HOUSE HESS COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 15, 1976 7:00 P.M.

Present:

Ostrosky Parr Sullivan
Swanson Beirne Hackney

HB 733 - Commitment procedures for mentally ill - HESS

Louise Ma - Research Analyst, Legis. Affairs Office - explained basis and provisions for the bill

Parr - After 270 days what can be done with someone who cannot be helped but is dangerous??

Gruening - have to be new circumstance to begin commitment procedures.

Jerry Schrader, Director, Div. of Mental Health - Presented the dept. position regarding this bill. Basically in favor, but have a few problems with it. Can make amendments to correct. See position paper.

Beirne wanted to know if it might be possible to combine into one facility the function of crisis intake and mentally ill, alcoholics, drug addicts, etc.??

Pat Spartz - Kodiak Aleutian Mental Health Center - Supports bill, but would like to see some amendments. Hard to see how bill would actually work until it is tried.

no action on bill



Alaska State Legislature

House

JUNEAU ALASKA

HOUSE HESS COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 15, 1976

Present: Sullivan Hackney
 Beirne Ose Osterback

Testifying: Dr. Pauls, Dept. H&SS, Public Health
 Dick Block, Div. of Ins.
 Sonya Johansen, Dept. H & SS HIS

HB 481 - Health Maintenance Organizations - HESS

Dick Block - Explanation of bill, HMO similar and mandatory to various types of health insurance. Reasons why we need regulation on HMO 1. to keep high standard of medical care 2 Since subscribers pay in advance, organization must be financially sound.

Committee - How much money would be needed to assure solvency, Block had no definite answer. Teamsters example as an HMO. Can this bill be redone to eliminate alot of the unneeded regulations, Block thinks so.

Committee requests Dick to submit a draft of an alternative to this bill. Dr. Pauls said Dept. will work along with him on this.

Dr. Pauls - did not have an official position paper on this bill from the Dept. but feelings regarding it are that there are now other health bills which speak to the same issue., for instance the Indian Health Service. So he doesn't feel this bill is needed.

Committee decided not to take any action on this now.

HB 395 - Registry of Impairments - HESS

Sonja Johnson - Dept. H&SS, feels that there is some problems with this bill, relating mainly to mandatory signing and also confidentiality. But she also feels that eventually everything will have to be on a registry.

Committee - If this is implemented what are the problems with it? Should this bill speak to the problems of data processing at the same time, yes. Dept. is now working to standardize procedures for data processing and will have done by the end of April.

Hackney - Is this bill really needed or does everything spoken to in here redo what is already in the regulations.??

Dr. Pauls - If it is done by regulations instead of a bill, there must be a public hearing all over and then the regs. must be rewritten. This bill does not force the regulations to be rewritten.

Sullivan concerned with whether some of the confidentiality problems are unconstitutional??. nobody seems to know.



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JUNEAU ALASKA

Page 2
March 15

Beirne - thinks this bill is much needed, but doesn't want to take rights away from individuals to choose to be on a registry.

Committee decided to hold bill.

17 April 1975

Representative Susan Sullivan
Pouch V
Juneau, Ak. 99801

Dear Representative Sullivan:

As a member of the Advisory Board to the Registry of Human Impairments, I would like for you to know that I am in support of the legislation now pending before the House (HB 395) in regard to the expansion of the scope of the Registry.

Such expansion will, I believe form the basis for better services to those with impairments, and the statistical reports will provide data useful in planning and evaluation of these services.

Sincerely yours,



Martha R. Wilson, M. D.

MRW:nh

HB 395

Susan Sullivan

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

7330 MARGE COURT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99504
333-6412



POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
465-3797
RESIDENCE 586-6159

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 18, 1975

Dr. Kenneth T. Richardson
1016 W. 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Dr. Richardson:

Thank you for your letter of April 18 regarding House Bill 395, "Registry of Persons with Impairments". I agree with you that such a registry would provide the most practical data base from which to develop health and education programs for impaired individuals.

Dr. Elizabeth Price of the Division of Public Health discussed the purpose of the bill at one of our recent committee meetings. As you mentioned, there has been concern that such a registry might impinge upon individual rights. After meeting defeat in the Senate, the bill has returned to the Senate HESS Committee for rewording in order to ensure that individual rights are maintained, and to determine exactly which impairments are to be registered.

Our committee is presently awaiting the Senate HESS adaptation, and is anxious for the development of the registry to be underway.

Again, thank you for your letter as the opinions of professionals dealing directly with health care are of particular usefulness in considering such matters.

Yours truly,

Susan Sullivan
Susan Sullivan, Chairwoman
House HESS Committee

SS:la

HB 395

KENNETH T. RICHARDSON, M. D.
PRACTICE LIMITED TO OPHTHALMOLOGY
1016 W. 6TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
TELEPHONE 272-1513

April 18, 1975

Susan Sullivan, Chairman
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mrs. Sullivan:

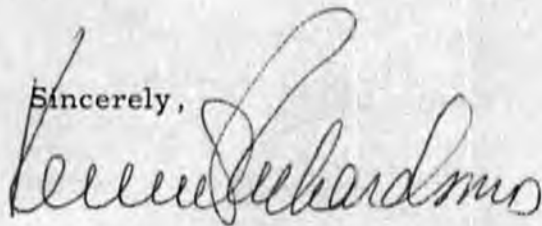
I would urge your support of House Bill #395.

All too often in the area of public health care and education elaborate, expensive solutions to apparent problems are devised and implemented prior to realistically defining the extent and nature of the problem. With our increasing population and the possibility of increased finances being available to the Legislature for activities in this area, there will undoubtedly be pressures from special interest groups for funding of programs for impaired persons. Quick surveys often done under the aegis of a special interest group can be misleading and programs developed against this background are likely to be more expensive and possibly less effective than those developed with a cohesive knowledge of the entirety of the human impairment program.

A Registry of Persons with Impairments is the only practical way of developing an unbiased data base from which reasonable health and education programs for impaired persons can be developed.

The fear of the computer and loss of human rights is a justifiable concern that appears to be dealt with effectively in the second draft of the Alaska Registry of Persons with Impairments as drawn up by Mr. Richard Peters.

Thank you for your concern in this matter.

Sincerely,


Kenneth T. Richardson, M.D.

KTR/kml