

HB

439

House Judicial Committee
Room 124 Capitol

HAND CARRY

POSITION PAPER

HOUSE BILL NO. 439

"An Act relating to shelter programs for victims of domestic or sexual assault; and providing for an effective date."

This Bill would amend AS 47.35.020 to exempt from licensure programs providing emergency or short-term lodging, housing or services for victims of domestic or sexual assault.

AS 47.35.020 requires, among other things, that foster homes, group homes or institutions providing care for dependent adults must be licensed. Shelters for victims of domestic and sexual assault had been identified by the Department as falling under the purview of this statute. The Department has recognized, however, significant differences between these shelters and other programs falling under the statute and had planned to make extensive revisions in the draft regulations to accommodate these differences.

The Department supports passage of this Bill. The Department's primary concern with regard to these programs is that minimum environmental health and fire safety standards be met.

RECOMMENDED BY: Art Holmberg DATE: 4/16/79
Art Holmberg, Director
Division of Social Services

APPROVED BY: Helen D. Beirne DATE: 4/17/79
Helen D. Beirne, Commissioner
Department of Health and Social Services