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106

POSITION PAPER

SENATE BILL NO. 106

"An Act making a special appropriation for the operations of the Alaska Native Child Welfare Task Force; and providing for an effective date."

The Department of Health and Social Services is in support of Senate Bill No. 106, making a special appropriation for the operation of the Alaska Native Child Welfare Task Force. The Indian Child Welfare Act imposes significant and far-reaching changes in operations for courts, attorneys, and agencies placing children in either foster care or adoption. A task force to study the various issues concerning child welfare services for Alaskan Natives would be very valuable in terms of future planning and policy development. The Department would be pleased to participate in such a task force.

Department of Health and Social Services is in support of Senate Bill No. 106.

RECOMMENDED BY: John R. Pugh
John R. Pugh, Director
Division of Family and
Youth Services

DATE: 2/5/81

APPROVED BY: Helen D. Beirne
Helen D. Beirne
Commissioner

DATE: 2/12/81

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. Senate Bill No. 106
Title Special appropriation for operations of the Alaska Native Child Welfare Task Force
Requested by _____ Date _____

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Health & Social Services
Program Category Affected _____

BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected _____

(Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
200 TRAVEL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
300 CONTRACTUAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
400 COMMODITIES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
500 EQUIPMENT	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
600 LAND & STRUCTURES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS

FULL TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

Senate Bill No. 106 has no fiscal impact on the Department of Health and Social Services.

IV. DATE 2/5/81 PREPARED BY [Signature] John R. Pugh, Director
AGENCY Division of Family & Youth Services
PHONE: 456-3770
Original: Legislative Finance
cc: Budget and Management
Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named) _____ M&B Approval [Signature] Date 2/5/81

ALASKA NATIVE CHILD WELFARE TASK FORCE

STATEMENT AND GOALS

Statement

The Alaska Native Child Welfare Task Force is a state-wide effort to advocate/assist Alaskan Natives/American Indians to ensure that the intent of the Indian Child Welfare Law is implemented.

1. Monitoring/evaluating child placements.
2. Education.
 - a) Alaskan Natives
 - b) Native Organizations
 - c) Other Agencies involved in child placements
3. Recruiting Native Adoption/Foster Homes.
4. Lobbying for state/federal legislation in the area of child welfare.

Goals

1. Legislative Activity

Keeping up with legislative activity, reporting to Task Force and bringing copies of the various bills for Task Force Members.

2. Training/Education

Developing training for the Regions so they in turn can train communities in their area.

3. Task Force Information

This is the responsibility of all Task Force Members. If you are aware of speakers/agencies to share information with us at our meetings (example - Adoption, Foster Care, Legislator, etc.) submit a written statement to the Chairperson regarding their presentation - what information they'll share with us and also hand outs if possible, or call; but this must be done at least two weeks prior to the meeting date. This will give the Chairperson an opportunity to put it on the agenda. The agenda will be sent out two weeks before the meeting date.

4. Public Relations/Membership Drive

Spreading information about our Task Force (radio spots, television, newspapers, etc.) and recruiting more members.

5. Clearing House of Information

Indian Child Welfare reading materials, books, bibliographies, etc. will be centralized in one location and available for our Task Force members to use.

Briefing Statement

Re: Alaska Native Child Welfare
Task Force

I. The Indian Child Welfare Act

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Public Law 95-608, is a federal law enacted by Congress on May 8, 1978. The Act was passed in response to the testimony of many Indian and non-Indian people who were appalled at the extreme number of Indian children who were placed in non-Indian foster and adoptive homes. The testimony revealed that these large number of placements were without regard for preserving the child's identity and culture were a significant cause of the breakdown of Indian families and tribes.

Thereby, the Act was passed to protect the integrity of Indian families and to help ensure that Indian children who are placed in adoptive or foster care homes continue to live in their natural cultural environment. The ICWA establishes national standards which state courts must follow before Indian children can be removed from their parents or Indian custodians.

The overall spirit and intent of the Act is to protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families.

Title II of the Indian Child Welfare Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to Indian Tribes and organizations. During the fiscal year 1980, \$5.5 million was appropriated on a national level. Fourteen (14) Native agencies in Alaska received funding for a child and family program for the 1980 ICWA Grant Year, which went from June 1980 to March 31, 1981. The Alaska Native agencies include: the Aleutian -Pribilof Islands Association; the Admiralty Citizens Council, Inc.; the Bristol Bay Native Association; Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska; Copper River Native Association; Kodiak Area Native Association; Kotzebue IRA Council; Mauneluk Association; Metlakatla Indian Community; North Pacific Rim; Sitka Community Association; Tanana Chiefs Conference and the United Crow Band of Alaska.

II. Alaska State Legislation Concerning the Indian Child Welfare Act

During the Eleventh Legislature - second session (1980), Tlingit and Haida Central Council was instrumental in working with Representative Duncan in formulating House Concurrent Resolution No. 43 to the Alaska State Legislature; and very involved in developing and organizing the joint hearings that pertained to this bill and the Juneau White House Conference on families that was held on February 23, 1980.

The House Concurrent Resolution No. 43 did pass the legislature, thereby, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the court system were to promptly take steps necessary to cooperate in the implementation of the ICWA in Alaska.

The Juneau White House Conference on Families of February 1980, centered around the issues that are impacting the stability and security of families in Juneau. The people who provided testimony spoke to upholding the traditional view of the family, to bringing God back into the home and schools and to getting rid of governmental interference in the family. The written testimony was more liberal in expressing a need to pass such issues as E.P.A., gay rights, freedom to choose abortion, and the acceptance of the "non-Traditional family". A report reflecting the conclusions and recommendations from the hearings was prepared by the Steering Committee Members.

III. The Alaska Native Child Welfare Task Force

In the Fall of 1979 representatives from several Alaska Native Human Services Programs moved to organize an ICWA Task Force. The representatives from these programs participated in the formulation of the Task Force concept and movement towards organization of the group. The Task Force submitted before the 1979 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention a resolution to seek their endorsement and support.

The resolution did pass, whereby, the Alaska Federation of Natives officially sanctioned the Alaska Native Child Welfare Task Force. The Alaska Native Child Welfare Task Force is a state-wide effort to advocate and to assist Alaskan Natives and American Indians in the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act, P.L. 95-608. The objectives of the Task Force are:

- (1) To actively participate in the formalization, establishment, and review of policies in order to safeguard the spirit and intent of the Indian Child Welfare Act;
- (2) To serve as an advocate on Indian Child Welfare issues in the community, state and national levels of the government;
- (3) To provide educational and training programs on the ICWA and related subjects to Alaskan Natives, Native Organizations, and other agencies who provide services to Native children and families; and
- (4) To serve as a clearing house of information on the Indian Child Welfare Act and related subject matter, whereby, material, books, films will be available for utilization by the Task Force members.

During this past year (1980) the Task Force membership has been comprised of Cook Inlet Native Association staff and representation from the ICWA grantees who could cover the expenses for staff travel.

Over the past year (1980) the Task Force has assumed an informational sharing focus in respects to addressing issues concerning implementation of the Act in Alaska and the ICWA grant application process.

IV. Development of Senate Bills 105 and 106

During the general Task Force meeting at the 1980 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Anchorage, the existing Task Force membership identified the need to formally organize the Task Force and to secure a funding base.

The purpose of organizing the existing Task Force is in order to ensure statewide representation of the Native agencies. And in order to pursue the Task Force objectives there is a need for a funding base from which to work.