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POSITION PAPER

HOUSE BILL NO. 550

"An Act relating to premarital blood tests; and providing for an effective date."

This Bill amends AS 25.05.101 by adding a new subsection stating that a blood test for syphilis is not required for the issuance of a premarital certificate.

In calendar year 1983, a total of 51 cases of syphilis in all stages was reported. Of these 32 were in the infectious stage. The rate for all cases of syphilis for 1982 was about 12.2 and 10.4 for 1983. Since 1973, Alaska's syphilis rate has been consistently lower than the rate for the U.S. as a whole. The 1980 U.S. rate was 30.38.

Premarital testing is no longer an effective case finding tool. Between 1975 and 1980, a total of about 60,000 premarital specimens were tested with a yield of only two cases of previously unknown infectious syphilis. In 1982, one case was found in a total of about 12,000 premarital tests. In recent years, about 65% of new cases of syphilis in Alaska have occurred in the homosexual population, a group not ordinarily reached through a premarital testing program. Most cases are detected through self-referral of symptomatic persons or through epidemiologic investigation of sexual contacts of detected cases.

Historically, the major purpose of premarital testing was the prevention of congenital syphilis. The existing Alaska statute became effective in 1949 when syphilis was much more common with over 100 cases per year.

Passage of this Bill would have no effect on VD control efforts in the State. Prenatal testing will continue as a preventive measure for congenital syphilis. Syphilis testing will still be available to private health care providers and to the sexually transmitted disease clinics. Efforts will continue to be directed at high risk groups and known associates and contacts of person with the disease in an infectious stage.

Passage of this legislation is supported by the Alaska Public Health Association, the Alaska State Medical Association, the Alaska State Hospital Association and the Alaska Native Board of Health. Opposition has been voiced by the Faith Hospital in Glenallen.

The intent of this Bill is similar to that of SB 343. The Department of Health and Social Services prefers SB 343 because it deletes all references to the need for premarital health certificates as a condition for

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the issuance of a marriage license while HB 550 leaves intact such references in AS 25. 05.091, AS 25.05.101, AS 25.05.105, AS 25.05.131, AS 25.05.141, AS 25.05. 151, AS 25.05.181, AS 25.05.201, AS 25.05.221 and AS 25.05.341.

Recommended by: (Acting) Phelps Jones
E.S. Rabeau, M.D. Director
Division of Public Health

Date: 2/9/84

Approved by: Robert London Smith
Robert London Smith, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Department of Health and
Social Services

Date: 2/10/84

STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date _____, 1984

REQUEST
Bill/Resolution No.: HB 550
Title: Premarital Blood Tests

Sponsor: Fritz & Szymanski
Requestor: House HESS
Date of Request: 1/31/84

II. FISCAL DETAIL
Agency Affected: Health & Social Servs.
Program Category Affected: Public Health

BRU, Program of Subprogram(s) Affected: State Health Services, Laboratory Services

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LANDS & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

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

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for Analysis

Prepared By: Dean Tirador Phone: 465-3090
Division: Public Health Date: 2/7/84

Approved by Commissioner: Robert London Smith, Ph.D. Date: 2/12/84
Agency: Dept. of Health & Social Services

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

12/1/83

**Municipality
of
Anchorage**



POUCH 6-650
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99502-0650
(907) 264-4111

TONY KNOWLES
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 5, 1984

Representative Milo H. Fritz, M.D.
Chairman, Health, Education
and Social Services Committee
State House of Representatives
Pouch V (Mail Stop 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Subj: Making vital statistics available to
municipal health officers

Dear Representative Fritz:

Vital statistics are the basis for intelligent public health activity, yet municipal health officers are not clearly entitled to vital statistics records under AS 18.50.310.

Under the Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC 3.20.085, 15.05.020, etc.) I am responsible for the health and well being of the residents in Anchorage. It makes sense, therefore, for me to have ready access to birth certificates, death certificates, and the like. I have been unable to get copies of certificates of death and certificates of birth in Anchorage from the State.

Vital statistics collection and collation is minimal in Alaska. DHSS does produce an annual report of vital statistics, but it comes out about 2 years after the year studied. It is therefore more of historical interest than current utility. I understand that funds for this function have recently been reduced even further.

Attached is suggested language amending the statute to make it perfectly clear that a municipal health officer may have January 5, 1984 access to vital statistics documents.

Sincerely,

Rodman Wilson, M.D.
Director, Department of Health
and Environmental Protection

Attachment

House Bill No. 549

"An Act relating to vital statistics records"

Under the Vital Statistics Act inspection of records is limited to agents of the state or federal government, acting in the performance of official duties. Amending AS 18.50.310 by adding a new section (f) would permit inspection of the records of human vital events of a particular municipality by the principal health officer or a designee.

An agreement would be required from each health officer that the information from any vital record will be used only for research and health planning, that the records remain confidential and that after use, the information is destroyed.

The Department of Health and Social Services Supports passage of HB 549.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Joan P. Brooks
JOAN P. BROOKS
STATE REGISTRAR
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

DATE:

February 6, 1984

APPROVED BY:

Daniel J. Middleton
DANIEL J. MIDDLETON
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
PLANNING, POLICY AND
PROGRAM EVALUATION

2/7/84

DATE:

February 6, 1984

APPROVED BY:

Robert London Smith
ROBERT LONDON SMITH, PH.D.
COMMISSIONER

DATE:

2/7/84

POSITION PAPER/Department of Health & Social Services

STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST
Bill/Resolution No.: HB 549
Title: An Act Relating to
vital statistics records
Sponsor: Fritz and Szymanski
Requestor: _____
Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL Department of
Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
Program Category Affected: Division of Planning
Policy and Program Evaluation
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected:
Bureau of Vital Statistics

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

No fiscal impact

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for analysis

Prepared By: Paul P. Drake Phone: 465-3391
 Division: P.P. & P.E. / Bureau of Vital Statistics Date: 2/6/84
 Approved by Commissioner: Robert Gordon Smith, Jr. Date: 2/7/84
 Agency: Dept. of Health & Social Services

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
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12/1/83