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292

POSITION PAPER
SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 292

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to tuberculosis screening of school employees."

This Bill amends AS 18.15 by adding a new section which requires annual testing of public and private elementary and secondary school employees for tuberculosis.

Currently, 4 AAC.06.050 requires a physical examination including testing for tuberculosis upon employment and every third year thereafter. Local school districts may require more frequent examinations. Costs of the examinations are borne by the school districts and are not covered by insurance.

The Department of Health and Social Services is in favor of more frequent tuberculosis testing. During the past year, two school employees with minimal active tuberculosis have been detected in Alaska. Early detection will minimize spread. In Denver, over 100 tuberculosis infections in school children were traced to a teacher with undetected active disease.

Recommended by:

E. S. Rabeau
E. S. Rabeau, M.D., Director
Division of Public Health

Date:

April 15, 1983

Approved by:

Robert London Smith
Robert London Smith, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Department of Health & Social Services

Date:

4/19/83

STATE OF ALASKA
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date _____, 1983

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: SSHB 292
 Title: Tuberculosis screening of school employees
 Sponsor: Rep. Hurt by request
 Requestor: House HESS

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
 Program Category Affected: Health
 BRU, Program of Subprogram(s) Affected: Communicable Disease Control

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LANDS & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
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	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER (Specify 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. SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

IV. ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for any Analysis

Prepared By: Dean Tirador *DT* Phone: 465-2113
 Division: Public Health Date: 4-14-83
 Approved by Commissioner: Robert London Smith, Ph.D. Date: 4/18/83
 Department: Health and Social Services

Distribution:

Original to Legislative Finance
 Copy to Office of Management and Budget (for Legislature introduced bills)
 Copy to Department (for Governor introduced bills)
 Copy to Sponsor
 Copy to Requestor (if different from Sponsor)

3/8/83

Analysis

In 1983, there are approximately 16,500 public school employees in the State. The number of private school employees is not systematically reported. The following assumptions have been made:

1. The number of private school employees is 1,500 in 1983.
2. The growth rate in school employment will be 3% per year.
3. The proportion of employees requiring chest x-rays is 5%.
4. 60% of employees will be located in areas where x-ray facilities operated by a municipality are available. Cost per film is estimated to be \$15.00 in 1984 and is inflated at 5% per year.
5. 40% of employees will be located in areas where x-ray service will have to be purchased from the private sector at a cost of \$25.00 per film and inflating at a rate of 5% per year.
6. Costs of skin testing will be negligible since school district nurses or Division of Public Health nurses will provide the services.

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 292

MY NAME IS JIM FARMER, AIDE TO REPRESENTATIVE HURLBERT.

THIS LEGISLATION WAS INTRODUCED BY REQUEST.

IT WAS FELT THAT DUE TO THE CONTINUING INCREASE IN INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS WITHIN THE STATE THAT WE SHOULD DO OUR BEST TO INSURE THE PROTECTION OF OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET, OUR CHILDREN.

CHILDREN ARE AT HIGH RISK FOR TB AND PEOPLE WHO, THROUGH THEIR JOBS, ARE AROUND THEM A LOT SHOULD BE CHECKED OFTEN FOR EXPOSURE TO THIS UNNEEDED BURDEN.

THIS WILL PROVIDE NEEDED PROTECTION.

THANK YOU.

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SECTION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL**

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(907) 561-4235

March 3, 1983

Vernon L. Hurlbert, Representative
State of Alaska
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Hurlbert:

Enclosed is a draft of quarantine legislation which we prepared in 1978, which still seems appropriate.

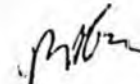
Regarding a statute concerning teachers and other personnel in contact with school children, we certainly feel the younger population of Alaska is at significant risk of getting infected with tuberculosis. We further emphasize that if this population can be protected from getting infected with TB germs, tuberculosis can eventually disappear. The one place in our society where a predominance of susceptible young people is together and at risk of being infected with tuberculosis is if there is exposure to a source during their school environment. The development, then, of a non-TBinfected population certainly merits some assurance that they are not going to be exposed to active tuberculosis in the school environment. With this in mind I would propose the following regulation - which will need to be polished into appropriate terminology.

Teachers and other school employees in contact with school children are required to have annual screening to assure that they do not have active pulmonary tuberculosis.

For individuals with previously negative tuberculin skin tests, a tuberculin test is adequate. If the tuberculin skin test is positive or if the person has a history of a positive skin test, a chest x-ray will be required. Failure to comply with this regulation would necessitate suspension from activities in the school environment.

Requests for exceptions must be referred to the State of Alaska DH&SS Division of Public Health, Section of Communicable Disease Control for review.

Sincerely,



Robert I. Fraser, M.D.
Chief, Section of Communicable
Disease Control

RIF/cfe