

SB

169

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Paul A. Fischer
Senate District D
Box 784
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(907) 262-9420 W
262-9269 H



While in Juneau
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-3791

State Senate

To: Senator Dick Eliason, Chairman
Senate Rules Committee

From: Senator Paul Fischer *P.F.*

Subject: SB 169, Foster Parent Training

Date: April 17, 1987

SB 169 would require potential foster parents to undergo training approved by the department before they are issued a license to run a foster home.

Many foster parents apply for licensing with the department hoping to contribute and help children in need of a stable home environment. Many of them are unaware of the time, commitment and potential problems both the foster child and the Division of Family & Youth Services might impose upon them.

It has been well established that foster parents who know what they are getting into are much more likely to go the distance without "burning out" due to the unanticipated trials and tribulations of foster care. Unanticipated burn-outs are very disruptive for both the child and the foster parents.

The subjects of such training might include:

- legalities and liabilities of foster care,
- often present problems of foster children, and
- services and role of DFYS.

Foster care is the most cost effective and practical care available for displaced children. The only other alternative is some type of institutional care which does not provide the same nurturing of a home environment not to mention the prohibitive expense.

Attached please find a more detailed description of the courses content.

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Paul A. Fischer
Senate District D
Box 784
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(907) 262-9420 W
262-3269 H



While in Juneau
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-3791

State Senate

To: Representative Niilo Koponen &
Representative Johnny Ellis
Chairmen House HESS Committee

From: Senator Paul Fischer *PF*

Subject: SB 169, Foster Parent Training

Date: April 29, 1987

SB 169 would require potential foster parents to undergo training approved by the department before they are issued a license to run a foster home.

Many foster parents apply for licensing with the department hoping to contribute and help children in need of a stable home environment. Many of them are unaware of the time, commitment and potential problems both the foster child and the Division of Family & Youth Services might impose upon them.

It has been well established that foster parents who know what they are getting into are much more likely to go the distant without "burning out" due to the unanticipated trials and tribulations of foster care. Unanticipated burn-outs are very disruptive for both the child and the foster parents.

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Attached please find a more detailed description of the courses content.



Alaska Foster Parents Association



P. O. BOX 8651 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

January 1985

MANDANTORY TRAINING FOR FOSTER PARENTS

PROBLEM: Prospective foster parents are being licensed and receiving children/youth without understanding the unique problems and care needed by children/youth in foster care; understanding the foster care system with its regulations and policies that affect the every day life of the foster parent and children; or a real commitment to the realities of foster care.

Children/youth who are in foster care have unique problems not usually encountered by the raising of your own children because of the life situations resulting in their placement in foster care. Their attitudes, ideas, development level (including emotional and educational, as well as physical), concepts of the world are impaired. They are from neglective, abusive, alcoholic, manipulative situations--disfunctional families. Foster parents need the knowledge to be able to deal with situations, feelings, and concepts the average parent will never encounter.

Since children/youth in foster care are in the custody of the Division of Family & Youth Services, or private agencies, foster parents must operate their families according to the laws, regulations, policies and procedures of the state plus coordinate their dealings with the youth with the social worker.

Foster parents "burn-out" quickly in the realities of dealing with disfunctional families and their children if they are not very prepared in what to expect and how to deal with those situations. If a foster family quit a child/youth must be moved, or the family finds they cannot deal with certain situations that are common to foster children/youth. If agency policies are not known or understood foster families "give up" or are eased out of the system--again to the detriment of children/youth.

RECOMMENDATION: The Division of Family & Youth Services is contemplating adding foster care training to regulations, but we feel it must have the force of a law change to insure inclusion.

The law (bill) should include 3 factors:

1. Initial training before licensing including all pertinent information on agency policies, what to expect from children, and well rounded information on "What is Foster Parenting".
2. Ongoing training with a minimum of 15 hours per family--5 minimum per adult.
3. Inability to be waived for certain families or locations.

ATTACHMENTS: Similar recommendation to the Division of Family & Youth Service from the 1977-78 Foster Family Care Task Force.
Expanded recommendation with specific topics of training

Add to Foster Care regulations:

- (1) Prospective foster parents shall attend pre-licensing training. This training should contain the following information:
 - a. What is Foster Parenting
Emergency, short and long term care
Why and how children arrive in Foster care
How Foster children differ from natural children
 - b. How children react to placement
Separation issues
 - c. Agency expectations
Roles, rights and responsibilities of:
Social workers
Placement agency
Foster parents
 - d. Natural parents.
Visitations
Feelings and attitudes
Parental rights
 - e. Legal issues
Legal status of child/youth
Juvenile judges and Guardian ad Litem
Foster parent legal issues:
Placement and Licensing appeals
Foster parent Bill of Rights
 - f. Placement issues
Information needed at placement:
Medical release
Medicaid coupons
Clothing vouchers
Billing authorizations
Emergency placements
Foster parent stipend:
Philosophy and use
 - g. Discipline
 - h. Licensing procedure
Application
Standard by standard
Home visit
Foster parent handbook
- (2) To remain licensed, foster care givers must acquire a minimum of 15 hours of on-going training relating to foster care; to be shared between the adult care givers with a minimum of 5 hours for each adult. This training may be acquired through:
 - a. local foster parent educational meetings
 - b. Agency sponsored training sessions
 - c. Alaska Foster Parent Association conferences and/or workshops
 - d. Areawide foster parent conferences co-sponsored by Alaska Foster Parent Association and local associations
 - e. National Foster Parent Association conferences and/or workshops
 - f. Community offered child/youth related training
 - g. Institutes of higher learning
 - h. Books, films, video tapes related to foster care and/or child/youth management
- (3) This regulation is unable to be waived. Each area agency is responsible to maintain materials and offer information and training free of charge to prospective and currently licensed foster parents.

POSITION PAPER

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 169

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the training of foster parents."

The Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS), within the Department of Health and Social Services, has primary responsibility for foster placements. On June 30, 1986, there were 738 children in foster care and 948 state licensed foster homes.

The Division is very supportive of foster parent training. Placement in out-of-home care is, unfortunately, a reality for many of Alaska's children, and if they are to receive not only the food, shelter and nurturance that they need, but an environment which will assist them in meeting their own special needs, training for foster parents is not only important, but essential.

The goal of foster parent training is to increase knowledge, and enhance skills of foster parents to work with children who usually enter foster care with a number of emotional and behavioral disturbances. These children often require specialized skills and foster parents, as significant participants in the child welfare service delivery system, are better equipped to participate as an active member of the service team when appropriately trained. In addition, national studies in other states have shown that foster parent retention is significantly lengthened when foster parents receive appropriate training.

There is no simple formula for determining who has the greatest need and the Department is supportive of a requirement of a minimal level of training which will be required of all foster parents. The Division of Family and Youth Services is presently developing foster care regulations which will be ready for public hearing by July 1, 1987. All foster parents statewide will receive a copy of the proposed regulations and will have the opportunity to comment on the appropriateness and feasibility of training requirements, especially in rural locations. Through regulations, levels of training for different types of care and different geographical areas of the State can be established.

RECOMMENDED:

Yvonne M. Chase
Yvonne M. Chase, Director
Division of Family
and Youth Services

DATE:

April 10, 1987

APPROVED:

Myra M. Munson
Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services

DATE:

April 15, 1987

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version : CS SB 169
Publish Date : _____

Revision Date: _____
Title: An Act relating to the
training of foster parents.
Sponsor : Fischer
Requestor : _____

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
BRU: Child and Youth Custody
Components : Foster Care

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

n/a

Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director
Division: Division of Family and Youth Services
Approved by Commissioner: Mvra M. Munson, Commissioner
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone: 465-3170
Date: 4/9/87
Date: 4/15/87

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)
Senate Secretary

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
907 465 3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

April 22, 1987

SUBJECT: CSSB 169 (HESS), foster parent training

TO: Senator Paul Fischer
Chairman, Senate HESS Committee

FROM: Edward H. Hein *EHA*
Legislative Counsel

This memorandum is in response to the request of your assistant, Jack Sanderson, that I put in writing some observations I have about CSSB 169(HESS). Since drafting the bill it has come to my attention that foster parent licenses are issued throughout the year and that licenses are valid for two years after the date of issue. In addition, initial probationary licenses are valid for one year from the date of issue. You may wish to amend the bill to reflect these facts.

Page 1, lines 17 - 22 requires annual foster parent training to maintain a license. It may be preferable to require the training during the same periods for which a person is licensed. You could do this by making the following changes: at page 1, line 19, delete "annual"; after "department" insert "during each 12-month period following the date on which the license is issued".

Whether you make that change or not, you should consider a change at page 2, line 4: delete "completed annual training" and insert "complied with the training requirement of AS 47.35.035(b) for calendar years 1987, 1988, and 1989". This change will make it clear that Sec. 3 of the bill is not intended to permanently grandfather in current licensees.

Finally, to make clear that the orientation and the annual training may not be waived, the following change is suggested: at page 1, line 23, before "training" insert "orientation and".

EHH:mkr
m11/053

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907 465 3800

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Chairman, Senate HESS Committee

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Legislative Counsel

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m11/053

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THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907 465 3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

April 22, 1987

SUBJECT: Sectional analysis of CSSB 169 (HESS),
relating to the training of foster parents

TO: Senator Paul Fischer
Chairman, Senate HESS Committee

FROM: Edward H. Hein *EHA*
Legislative Counsel

Section 1 requires that prospective foster parents complete an orientation approved by the Department of Health and Social Services before being licensed, and specifies what must be included in the orientation. The section also requires those persons already licensed as foster parents to complete annual training approved by the department in order to maintain their licenses. The requirements for training may not be waived.

Sec. 2 provides that the non-waiver provision in section 1 is an exception to the waiver provisions in AS 47.35.040(c).

Sec. 3 is a temporary law provision that would allow licensed foster parents to meet the requirements of AS 47.35.035(b) by completing "annual" training during either fiscal year 1988 or fiscal year 1989 instead of during both years. The provision also allows the Department of Health and Social Services to schedule half of licensees for training in each of those fiscal years, in order to spread out the cost and burden of training over a two-year period. After fiscal year 1989, however, annual training would be required for all licensees.

EHH:mkr
m11/049

Original sponsor: Fischer

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IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 169 (HESS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the training of foster parents."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. AS 47.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 47.35.035. FOSTER PARENT TRAINING. (a) A person may not be licensed under this chapter to maintain or conduct a foster home unless the person has completed an orientation for foster parents approved by the department. An orientation required under this subsection must provide information about foster care regulations, policies, and procedures, practical instruction about the realities of caring for a child who is placed in a foster home, and other appropriate information.

(b) To maintain a license issued under this chapter for the maintenance or conduct of a foster home, a licensee shall complete annual foster parent training approved by the department. Training under this subsection need not be conducted in a classroom setting, but must include methods of instruction that meet the varying needs of foster parents and the department.

(c) The requirements for training under this section may not be waived.

* Sec. 2. AS 47.35.040(c) is amended to read:

(c) Except as provided in AS 47.35.035, the [THE] department may waive compliance with a standard set out in regulations adopted under AS 47.35.010 - 47.35.080 if an acceptable alternative is established that meets the purpose of the provision and reasonably assures the

1 well-being of persons in care.

2 * Sec. 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of AS 47.35.035, as enacted by
3 sec. 1 of this Act, and AS 47.35.040(c), as amended by sec. 2 of this Act,
4 a licensee shall be considered to have completed annual training if the
5 licensee completes the training during either fiscal year 1988 or fiscal
6 year 1989. The Department of Health and Social Services may schedule
7 training so that approximately one-half of licensees receive training
8 during each of the fiscal years 1988 and 1989.
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Alaska State Legislature

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While in Juneau
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Juneau, Alaska 99811
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State Senate

To: Senators John Binkley & Don Bennett, Co-Chairmen
Senate Finance Committee

From: Senator Paul Fischer *PF*

Subject: SB 169, Foster Parent Training

Date: April 13, 1987

SB 169 would require potential foster parents to undergo training approved by the department before they are issued a license to run a foster home.

Many foster parents apply for licensing with the department hoping to contribute and help children in need of a stable home environment. Many of them are unaware of the time, commitment and potential problems both the foster child and the Division of Family & Youth Services might impose upon them.

It has been well established that foster parents who know what they are getting into are much more likely to go the distance without "burning out" due to the unanticipated trials and tribulations of foster care. Unanticipated burn-outs are very disruptive for both the child and the foster parents.

The subjects of such training might include:

- legalities and liabilities of foster care,
- often present problems of foster children, and
- services and role of DFYS.

Foster care is the most cost effective and practical care available for displaced children. The only other alternative is some type of institutional care which does not provide same nurturing of a home environment not to mention the prohibitive expense.

Attached please find a more detailed description of the courses content.

Alaska State Legislature

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While in Juneau
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(907) 465-3791

State Senate

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representatives Niilo Koponen and
Johnny Ellis, Co-Chairmen
House Health, Education and Social
Services Committee

FROM: Senator Paul Fischer *PF*

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 169
(training of foster parents)

DATE: March 9, 1988

I would appreciate your scheduling the above referenced bill for hearing before the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee at your earliest possible convenience.

This legislation adds a new section to AS 47.35 in order that a person could not be licensed to maintain or conduct a foster home unless the person has completed an orientation for foster parents approved by the Department of Health and Social Services. The orientation would have to provide information about foster care regulations, policies, and procedures, practical instruction about the realities of caring for a child who is placed in a foster home, and other appropriate information.

To maintain a license, the licensee would have to complete annual foster parent training approved by the department. Training would not have to be completed in a classroom setting, but must include methods of instruction that meet the varying needs of foster parents and the department. Additionally, a licensee would be considered to have completed annual training if training is completed in fiscal year 1988 or fiscal year 1989. The training requirements could not be waived.

The Senate passed this legislation last session on April 28, by a vote of 19 Yeas and 0 Nays.

PAF/sgn

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: An Act relating to the
training of foster parents.
Sponsor: Fischer
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
BRU: _____
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

N/A

Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, ACSW, Director
Division: Family & Youth Services

Phone: 465-3170
Date: _____

Approved by Commissioner: Myra M. Munson
Agency: Health & Social Services

Date: 5/6/88

Distribution (by preparer):

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

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

Bill Version : CSSB No. 169

Publish Date : _____

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____

Title: An Act relating to the
training of foster parents.

Sponsor: _____

Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
BRU: Child and Youth Custody

Components: Foster Care

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
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LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

n/a

Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director
Division: Division of Family and Youth Services

Phone: 465-3170
Date: 03/23/87

Approved by Commissioner: Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Date: 3/24/87

Distribution (by preparer):

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

Introduced: 3/9/87
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services &
Finance

5-0714A

1 IN THE SENATE

BY FISCHER

2 SENATE BILL NO. 169

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the training of foster parents."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 47.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

9 Sec. 47.35.035. FOSTER PARENT TRAINING. (a) A person may not
10 be licensed under this chapter to maintain or conduct a foster home
11 unless the person has completed an orientation for foster parents
12 approved by the department. An orientation required under this sub-
13 section must provide information about foster care regulations, poli-
14 cies, and procedures, practical instruction about the realities of
15 caring for a child who is placed in a foster home, and other appro-
16 priate information.

17 (b) To maintain a license issued under this chapter for the
18 maintenance or conduct of a foster home, a licensee shall complete
19 annual foster parent training approved by the department. Each adult
20 in a foster home shall complete at least 5 hours of annual training
21 under this subsection, and each foster care family shall complete a
22 total of at least 15 hours of annual training. Training under this
23 subsection need not be conducted in a classroom setting, but must
24 include methods of instruction that meet the varying needs of foster
25 parents and the department.

26 (c) The requirements for training under this section may not be
27 waived.

28 * Sec. 2. AS 47.35.040(c) is amended to read:

29 (c) Except as provided in AS 47.35.035, the [THE] department may
S

1 waive compliance with a standard set out in regulations adopted under
2 AS 47.35.010 - 47.35.080 if an acceptable alternative is established
3 that meets the purpose of the provision and reasonably assures the
4 well-being of persons in care.
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Alaska Foster Parents Association

P. O. BOX 140651 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508



TESTIMONY FOR SENATE HESS COMMITTEE
MARCH 18, 1987

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to request your total support for SB 169, to provide for training for foster parents.

Alaska Foster Parent Association has been actively seeking an addition to statutes and regulations to require training of foster parents for the past 7 years. We believe that orientation and ongoing training will greatly upgrade the quality of services provided to children and youth in the foster care system.

A research project was completed in approximately 1980 through the Social Work Department of the University of Alaska, Anchorage that explored why foster parents really quit being foster parents. A high percentage of former foster parents stated that foster care was not what they thought it was going to be or they did not know how to cope with all the various aspects of foster caring, therefore they resigned. When a foster parent quits it usually results in a move of their foster children to another home, which damages the children emotionally, not to even mention the feelings of guilt, failure, and defeat of both the foster parents, their family, and foster children. Another research paper completed in 1986 in Juneau showed training to be a high priority of both foster parents and social workers.

Training for foster parents, nationwide, has been found to have the following benefits:

1. Preventing or reducing the movement of children between foster homes.
2. Retention of foster parents, therefore, more stable placements of children and more experienced foster homes available to accept placement of children.
3. Foster parents who can take more responsibility, therefore, relieving the social worker who must deal with crisis first and ongoing needs as they can find time.
4. Insuring foster parents know how to meet the needs of the children and youth placed with them--therefore providing treatment and help to those children rather than childcare.
5. Enhances the ability of foster parents to work as team members with others involved with the child, including the birth parent, social worker, psychologist, teachers, etc.

6. Enables foster parents to detect potential or actual problem areas before they escalate, therefore enhancing prevention of future abuse, neglect, delinquency, or other problems that will cost the state even more to treat.

Over half of the other states in the United States have mandatory training requirements for foster homes in recognition of these benefits.

Alaska Foster Parent Association and its 10 local chapters support this bill as written. We wish to point out a few features of this bill:

It requires potential foster parents to receive initial orientation to prepare them to be foster parents and to screen out those applicants for which foster care is not what they thought it was. The many states that have this mandatory orientation have found that fewer foster parents are licensed, but those that are licensed stay longer in the system and are capable of handling more difficult children, therefore actually increasing the numbers of foster parents in a couple of years time.

This bill also requires each foster family to acquire 15 hours of ongoing training per year, with each adult to acquire a minimum of 5 hours. This will insure that all adults in the household have a good base of knowledge about issues in fostering. This requirement should be easily reached by existing and future foster families through resources already available--we are not asking for the Department to provide this training, as we feel the resources are already available in most communities and can be tapped by foster parents based on the area they feel they need more information. For example, a foster parent taking teens would find in the community workshops or classes dealing with things such as discipline, alcohol or drugs, or teen pregnancies. A foster family working with sexually abused children would look for classes on detecting or treating the sexually abused child.

This bill should not require any fiscal notes. For orientation we have licensing workers and experienced foster parents who can facilitate orientation training using prepared curriculums such as NOVA training from NOVA University or ISSUES IN FOSTERING from Eastern Michigan University. Several DFYS offices throughout the state are currently providing such training using licensing worker-foster parent co-trainers in the evening once a week and giving that licensing worker comp-time the next morning. This would require no new funding.

For ongoing training most communities have numerous training workshops, seminars, or classes each year through such places as crisis centers, sexual abuse or women's centers, native organizations, mental health, colleges, etc. Alaska Foster Parent Association has a \$105,000 contract to provide training statewide, which offers a state conference of 12-20 hours of training, a newsletter with educational

materials quarterly, local training conferences in at least 10 areas of the state, and local associations which host monthly training sessions of approximately 2 hours each. AFPA has also developed a packet of 15 training flyers to cover most aspects of foster care and has a library of books and materials for hand-out or lending. Most training on the state level has been video-taped and is available to local associations or to individuals. Numerous books, curriculums, and video and cassette tapes could be available to foster parents who cannot reach other training. AFPA has explored the idea of having videoed training put on educational television particularly to the bush communities, and also translating many materials into the various languages of Alaska.

It would be ideal if the contract amount with Alaska Foster Parent Association was increased, to better meet our goals of training, BUT we can minimumly meet mandantory training with existing funds in the DFYS budget.

We encourage you to support SB 169 and to pass it out of committee today. The foster children and youth of Alaska deserve to have the best care possible, which is through trained, knowledgeable, and experienced foster parents.

If you have further questions I would be happy to answer or feel free to contact AFPA legislative liason Miriam Sumner. Thank you.

What are

POSITION PAPER

SENATE BILL NO. 169

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the training of foster parents."

The Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS), within the Department of Health and Social Services, has primary responsibility for foster placements. The Division is very supportive of foster parent training as is evidenced by contracts for the last two years from DFYS with the Alaska Foster Parent Association to provide training for foster parents. The Division also recognizes the concern of the foster parent association regarding the amount of time it has taken to implement regulations regarding foster parent training. The Division has prioritized finalizing regulatory drafts and they will be ready for public hearings before the end of the fiscal year. The regulations may be found as an appropriate means to address training. All foster parents statewide will receive a copy of the proposed regulations and will have an opportunity to comment on the appropriateness and feasibility of training requirements, especially in rural locations.

The Department would suggest that mandated training for foster parents would most appropriately be addressed in administrative policies. Through policy, levels of training for different types of care and geographical areas of the State can be established. As the primary purchaser of foster care services, the Division is also concerned about requirements for training which could not be waived.

RECOMMENDED:

Yvonne M. Chase
Yvonne M. Chase, ACSW, Director
Division of Family
and Youth Services

DATE:

3/17/87

APPROVED:

Myra M. Munson
Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services

DATE:

3/18/87

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

Bill Version: SB No. 169
Publish Date: _____

REQUEST: _____
Revision Date: _____
Title: An Act relating to the
training of foster parents.
Sponsor: Fischer
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
BRU: Child and Youth Custody
Components: Foster Care

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	100,000	250,000				
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	100,000	250,000				

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	100,000	250,000				
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	100,000	250,000				

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary) The current contract with the Alaska Foster Parent Association provides training for one-half of foster parents statewide. If mandated for all foster parents, training costs would more than double. Costs would be incurred in modifying curriculum for different levels of care and in achieving a minimum standard for different areas of the State.

Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director *YMC* Phone: 465-3170
Division: Division of Family and Youth Services Date: 03/16/87
Approved by Commissioner: *M. H. Munson*
M. H. Munson, Commissioner Date: 3/18/87
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

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