

HB

3

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
JERRY MACKIE



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House of Representatives

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HB 3

HB 3, An Act relating to public home care providers, restricts the ability of a home care provider to assume power of attorney and requires criminal background checks on any individual providing home care services paid for by public funds for an elderly or disabled person.

This bill will provide some protection to elderly and disabled persons from those responsible for their care; these groups are particularly vulnerable to abuse because of age, illness, disability and the isolation of being alone in their home with a caregiver.

It is important to take these steps now, while Alaska is on the brink of an explosion in home care services. Our senior citizen population is rapidly expanding and the state has just received approval for a Medicaid Waiver to provide home and community based services as an alternative to institutionalization. Once the Medicaid Waiver is effective, and there is a payment system available for expanded home based services, the home care services industry will see rapid growth - as it has in other states. This bill also requires background checks on home care providers paid through Older Alaskans Commission grants, and respite care providers paid through the Division of Family and Youth Services.

An important aspect of this bill is that the Department of Health and Social Services is required to implement regulations identifying actions to be taken upon reports of harm by a home care provider; it also protects the due process rights of the provider. My companion bill, HB 4, provides that conviction of a person licensed, certified or regulated by a board or the Department of Commerce, for abuse of an elderly or disabled person may be considered ground for disciplinary proceedings or sanctions.

I think this bill is both important and timely and urge your support.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 3

Revision Date: March 31, 1993 Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services
 Title: "An act relating to Public Home Providers" BRU: Family and Youth Services
 Component: Central Office
 Sponsor: Representative Mackie, Ulmer
 Requestor: Representative Mackie COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 259

Expenditures/Revenues:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	15.0					
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL

REVENUE FUND SOURCE

FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

FUNDING:	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	15.0					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY93) impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Section 2 of this bill requires that the Department develop regulations on circumstances requiring reassignment, suspension, or termination of a home care provider alleged to have perpetrated harm and on the appeal rights and due process for such an individual. Section 9 requires that the regulations be adopted by March 15, 1994. The department had frequently been given legislative responsibility for promulgating regulations without funding to accomplish the task. DFYS within the department has received criticism during this session for taking too much time to write or update regulations. There are several critical regulatory projects ahead of this one. For this reason a moderate fiscal note is required to implement the provisions of this bill. A contract will be obtained to draft, conduct public hearings on, and finalize the regulations. The contractor will revise the Adult and the Child Protective Services staff manuals to implement the changes and will work with data processing to plan protective services data collection on home care providers under Section 4 of the bill.

Prepared by: Deborah R. Wing, Director *Deborah R. Wing* Phone: 465-3191
 Division: Department of Health & Social Services Date: 03/31/93
 Approved by Commissioner: NA *Theodore A. Mala* Date: 4/1/93
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 03

Revision Date: March 30, 1993 Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services
 Title: An act relating to public home care providers BRU: State Health Services
 Sponsor: Mackie, Ulmer Component: Nursing
 Requestor: House HES COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 4288

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE	GF	GF	GF	GF	GF	GF
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	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

Estimate of current year (FY93) impact: NONE

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Cost of the security clearance for Personal Care Attendants will be covered within the grant awards to home care agencies.

Prepared by: Peter M. Nakamura, MD, MPH
 Division: Public Health

Phone: (907) 465-3090

Date: _____

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Date: 4/1/93

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 3

Revision Date: _____
Title: "An Act relating to public home care providers: and providing for an effective date."
Sponsor: Representative Mackie
Requestor: _____

Department Affected: Administration
BRU: Older Alaskans Commission
Component: Older Alaskans Commission
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 36

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:

OPERATING	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING:

1002 Federal Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
1003 GF Match	0	0	0	0	0	0
1004 GF	0	0	0	0	0	0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	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

Estimate of current year (FY93) impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared by: Connie J. Sice, Director
Division: Older Alaskans Commission

Phone: 465-3250
Date: January 21, 1993

Approved by Commissioner: Nancy Bear Usera
Agency: Administration

Date: 1/25/93

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House of Representatives

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SECTIONAL ANALYSIS - HB 3

"AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC HOME CARE PROVIDERS; EFD"

- Section 1 Title 13, Chapter 26 (Protection of persons under disability and their property) is amended by adding a new section which provides that a public home care provider may not accept a designation of attorney in fact or power of attorney for a person to whom they provide services unless that power is shared with another person who is not a home care provider.
- Section 2 Amends Chapter 47, Title 5, which relates to the powers and duties of the Department of Health and Social Services, by adding a new section which: 1) provides that state funds may not be used to pay for the services of a home care provider unless a criminal background check is completed under AS 12.62.035(a) and reviewed within 5 days of receipt; 2) requires the department to require these background checks by home care provider contractors and grantees; 3) requires the department to implement regulations on actions subsequent to reports of harm by a home care provider and protection of due process rights of providers subject to reports of harm; and defines home care provider in this section.
- Section 3 Adds a new subsection to AS 47.10.230, powers and duties of the department over care of children, which provides that the department may not pay for respite care services unless a criminal background check has been requested and reviewed.
- Section 4 Amends AS 47.24.050(b) to allow the department to disclose the number of verified reports of harm to the elderly by home care providers.
- Section 5 Defines home care provider under Chapter 24.
- Section 6 Adds a new subsection to AS 47.65.050 which provides that payments to a sponsor for respite or home care

services under the programs of the Older Alaskans Commission may not be made unless the sponsor agrees to request a criminal background check on the person providing services.

Section 7 Adds a new subsection to AS 47.65.100 which provides that the Older Alaskans Commission may not award a grant for day care and respite services unless the grantee agrees to request criminal background checks on individuals providing service.

Section 8 Adds a new section to AS 47.65.100 which defines home care services under the Older Alaskans Commission statutes.

Section 9 Requires the Department of Health and Social Services to adopt home care provider regulations by March 15, 1994 and issue a report to the legislature on the status of the regulation process by February 1, 1994.

Section 10 Provides for an immediate effective date.

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Older Alaskans Commission

POSITION PAPER ON HOUSE BILL 3

"An Act Relating to public home care workers"

The Older Alaskans Commission supports passage of House Bill 3.

This bill adds several new protections for seniors and other disabled persons who use the services of public home care providers.

Section 1 states that any type of publicly paid for home care provider may not accept a designation to hold a power of attorney for a home care client unless the power of attorney is held jointly (possible under the law) with someone else who is not employed as a home care worker.

Older Alaskans Commission recommends an amendment that strengthens Section 1 to forbid any situation where a power of attorney is held by a publicly paid home care worker for a client, unless there is some protection and oversight, such as a court order or a waiver based upon particular facts given by the state agency which is paying for the home care. Alternatively, the person with whom the home care worker jointly holds the power of attorney should be required to be a person who has no personal or financial relationship with the home care worker.

Section 2 is added to the general duties of the Department of Health and Social Services. This section mandates that state funds may not be used for payment to a home care provider unless the contractor or grantee which hires the home care workers agrees to file a request, within 10 days after hiring each individual worker, for that worker's state criminal records, as such a request is provided for in existing law at AS 12.62.035. The employer must also promptly review the criminal records once received.

This section instructs DH&SS to adopt regulations about how it will take action when a report of harm is filed under either the child or the elder abuse reporting statutes, when the allegation is that the harm was caused by a public home care provider. Specifically, the regulations must include procedures for when and how the department will require the contractor or grantee employer to reassign, suspend or terminate the alleged abuser, including procedural safeguards of the individual home care worker's due process rights in such a case.

Finally, this section defines "public home care provider" as any worker under a state contract or grant who provides any of the following types of service: homemaker, chore, personal care, home health, or similar services in or around a client's personal residence; or respite care service whether provided in the client's home or the provider's home or facility.

Section 3 states that DH&SS may not pay for any respite care unless the same procedures for requiring criminal background checks are put into the contracts or grants.

Section 4 broadens the mandate that DH&SS must, upon request, release the number of verified reports of harm to elderly persons at an institution to also require the same disclosure about a publicly paid home care provider.

Section 5 adds a definition of "public home care provider," basically anyone paid by the state under contract or grant to provide homemaker services at an institution to also require the same disclosure about a publicly paid home care provider.

Section 6 states that the Older Alaskans Commission must also require the same types of criminal background checks for any home care workers under OAC grants for family respite or home care services.

Section 7 states that the OAC must require the same types of criminal background checks for any home care workers under grants for family respite care or for adult day care services.

Section 8 adds a new definition of "home care services" to the services to Older Alaskans act, which puts all homemaker, chore, personal care, home health or similar services in or around a client's residence in this category.

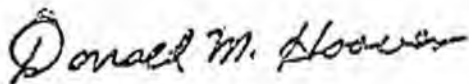
Section 9 sets a time deadline when the Department of Health & Social Services must adopt the new regulations required by Section 2 of this act, specifically by March 15, 1994. A status report is due to the legislature by February 1, 1994.

Section 10 gives the act an immediate effective date.

This bill, by requiring criminal background checks, may slightly increase the costs of providing publicly paid for in-home care services for some agencies which are not already doing these checks. This higher cost may result in slightly reduced hours of service available for clients. However, even if hours of services were slightly decreased, this would be a worthwhile trade-off in order to give greater assurance of physical and financial security to the vulnerable home care clients.

The Older Alaskans Commission believes that abuse of elders and disabled adults is a grievous problem that Alaska must better address.

The Commission urges passage of House Bill 3.



Donald M. Hoover, Chairman
Older Alaskans Commission

Dated: 3/27, 1993

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

THEODORE A. MALA, COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 110601
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0601
PHONE: (907) 465-3030

March 4, 1992

Honorable Jerry Mackie
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Mackie:

Thank you for your February 20 memo regarding home health care services for the elderly and disabled. Following are the answers to the questions you set out:

1. How many disabled adults and elderly persons were receiving services under home health care services programs throughout all the divisions of H&SS for FY87 - FY91?

ANSWER: The Division of Public Health, through the section of Nursing, has only been overseeing the Adult Homemaker Services contract (AMTECH) since FY90. Prior to that time the Homemaker Services were administered by DFYS.

In FY91 there were:

492 age 68-80

214 over age 80

706 total clients over age 65

The total number of all clients served by AMTECH in FY91 was 1,122.

The above FY90 information was requested of the contractor for the purpose of this report; AMTECH was unable to provide information at this time.

The section of Nursing provides home health to a limited number of clients each year in a small number of communities, using State

Honorable Jerry Mackie
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general funds. Home Health Aide services are, or have been, available in the following communities:

Mat-Su/Palmer/Wasilla/Talkeetna
Fairbanks/North Star Borough
Juneau
Sitka
Seward/Kenai
Soldotna/Homer
Ketchikan
Wrangell
Petersburg
Bethel

In three locations (Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Juneau) skilled (Registered Nurse) services are available through a pilot project (which began in 1981) with services provided by state employees (PHN II's and Nurse II's).

The following chart shows the number of clients served through the Home Health Aide and Home Health Skilled Nursing programs:

FY	Number of Clients/Patients	
91	376	(330 are over age 65)
90	358	(311 are over age 65)
89	349	(341 are over age 65)
88	363	(315 are over age 65)
87	359	(319 are over age 65)

The data system does not break-out the number of disabled children or adults, although only those clients with moderate to severe needs are provided services. Most clients are not Medicaid eligible due to income level that places them slightly above the financial criteria and do not have third-party insurance that will reimburse for homecare for health aide services.

2. How much money was spent on salaries for public home health care providers throughout all the divisions of H&SS from FY87 - FY91?

ANSWER: The following is cost of personal services to provide skilled, home health nursing in the communities of Fairbanks, Juneau, and Ketchikan:

	FY88	FY89	FY90	FY91
PERSONAL SERVICES	348,018	385,174	448,501	384,579

Note that cost of personal services were lower in FY91. This was due to a turnover in home health staff at the Fairbanks Health Center. Senior employees at advanced salary steps were replaced by employees at lower salary steps.

How many individuals were employed as public home health care providers in these same fiscal years?

Since its beginning, the staffing pattern for the Home Health Program has remained the same with one exception. In FY91 the Juneau Health Center Clerk Typist III position was transferred out of the Home Health program (*).

Program Nurse Consultant	Central Office
Public Health Nurse II	Juneau Health Center
Nurse II	Juneau Health Center
*Clerk Typist III	Juneau Health Center
Community Health Aide	Ketchikan Health Center
Clerk Typist III	Ketchikan Health Center
Public Health Nurse II	Fairbanks Health Center
Nurse II	Fairbanks Health Center
Nurse II	Fairbanks Health Center
Clerk Typist III	Fairbanks Health Center

3. How much money was spent on contracts with private home health care services agencies?

The Section of Nursing has approximately 65 -- 75 active Home Health Aides working under agreements. Due to turnover of the Home Health Aides, there may be as many as 100 individuals who have agreements (active or inactive) with the Department during the fiscal year. An additional 8 -- 10 Registered Nurses are working under professional services contracts to provide home health services.

Honorable Jerry Mackie
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 Page 4

CONTRACTED SERVICES	FY88	FY89	FY90	FY91
SKILLED NURSING (RN'S)	\$ 92,882	\$ 84,166	\$103,001	\$ 83,845
Total number of hours (paid at \$18 PerHour)	(4,604)	(4,675)	(5,722)	(4,658)
HOME HEALTH AIDES (HHA)	\$222,868	\$264,000	\$264,000	\$264,000
Total number of hours (paid at \$12 PerHour)	(18,572)	(22,000)	(22,000)	(22,000)
PROVIDENCE	\$229,612	\$238,000	\$238,000	\$238,000
Total number of visits (paid at \$39. Per HA visit)	(5,259)	(5,685)	(5,471)	(5,471)
(paid at \$90. Per RN visit)	(385)	(368)	(370)	(370)
AMTECH			\$1,455,775	\$1,488,600
Training Funds			<\$42,689>	<\$32,865>
Total number of hours paid at \$20.34 per hr			(71,568)	
paid at \$21.72 per hr				(68,535)

Is there breakout information available as to amounts spent for services provided to children, disabled adults and elderly adults?

This is information for the Home Health skilled nursing contract with Home Health Care/Providence Hospital

FY	Total No. Clients	HHA Visits	RN Visits	Over 60	disabled	cost
91	127	5,471	370	107 (84%)	11 (9%)	\$239,000
90	125	5,471	370	102 (82%)	14 (11%)	\$238,000
89	137	5,685	368	115 (89%)	12 (9%)	\$238,000
88	116	5,259	385	99 (86%)	12 (10%)	\$229,612
87	107	5,920	358	86 (80%)	15 (14%)	\$249,107

The existing data system and reports have no simplified means of extracting the information pertinent to the number of disabled children and adults, so the percentages listed above are an estimate of the total number of clients from reports submitted.

4. Can you provide an update as to the status of the Medicaid Waiver Application of the State of Alaska?

Honorable Jerry Mackie


March 4, 1992

Page 5

Answer: We will be applying for our package of waivers in the very near future. The applications are first filed with the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Region X. We anticipate that we will have approval and be fully operational by July 1993.

If you need further information on these or any other Department programs, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH
Commissioner

TAM:TB:AW

bcc: Peter Nakamura, Director
Dwayne Peoples, Health Program Specialist
Alice Walters, Health Program Nurse Consultant

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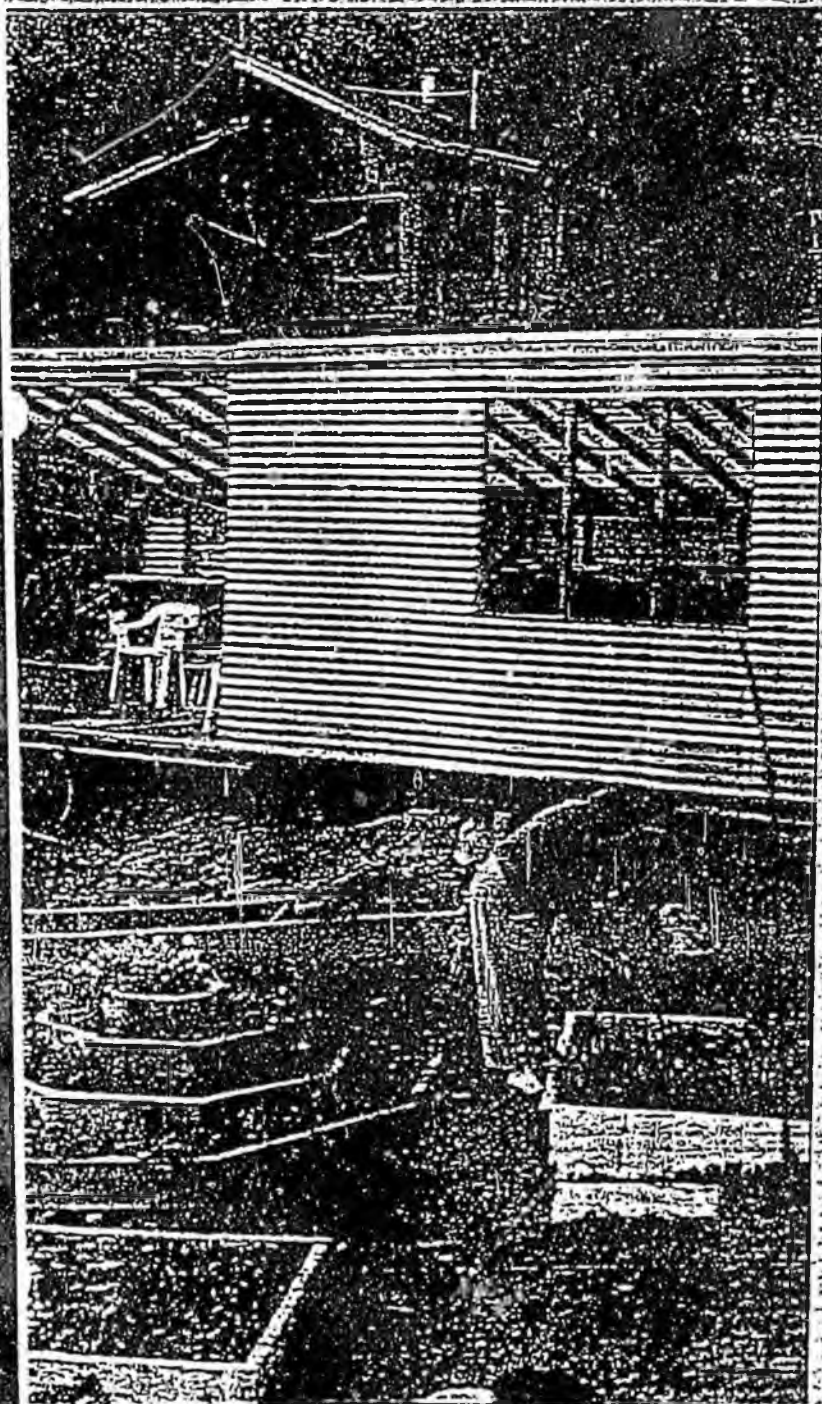
sure we're not a jumbled-up town. A lot of things are going on right this time.

—Johnnie Laird

Lowling

THE MARCH OF

Progress



Alaska's growing, graying

Census reports state is second nationwide in population gain

By PATRICIA SOLOVECHIK

TIMES BUSINESS WRITER

Alaska is growing and graying far more rapidly than the rest of the nation, a trend spurred by workers lured by tales of high-paying jobs and incentives for senior citizens who are remaining in the state or relocating here.

Alaska's population increased 3.7 percent to 570,000 people between April 1990 and July 1991 — the nation's second-fastest growth rate for the 15-month period after Nevada, which gained 6.8 percent, according to U.S. Bureau of the Census data.

However, Scott Goldsmith, an economist with the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage, said the trend will not continue.

The growth rate will drop off pretty dramatically between this year and next, Goldsmith said. There will always be people coming to look for work, but as the economy in the lower 48 improves, that will take some of the pressure off.

But the startling rise in older baby boomers and senior citizens among Alaska residents is a trend that will remain with the state as long as incentives are offered to bring them in and keep them here, he said.

Alaska's 88,000 residents in the 45-to-64 age group grew 7.1 percent between the spring of 1990 and last summer, the nation's fastest rate for that population segment. Nationally, the 45-to-64 age group grew at a rate of 1.2 percent during the 15-month period, which is the latest for which census data is available.

And Alaska is second only to Nevada in population growth among people age 65 and older, Census Bureau statistics showed.

The statistics are further indication of a trend that has concerned Alaska officials enough to begin planning sessions on how to deal with caring for that very expensive segment of the population.

The state has been very involved in looking at the growth of seniors and doing some planning related to what we're going to do about it, said Ruth Galias, director of long-term care planning with the Commission on Older Alaskans.

Several projects, funded by state and federal sources, are looking for alternatives to expensive institutionalization of frail or impaired elderly residents in an effort to control costs, she said.

The elderly population is growing at such a phenomenal rate, it is incumbent on us to plan for this

See Census, page A13

Census

Continued from page A1

group, she said. Meanwhile, the under age 5 population in Alaska is growing at a rate of 1.3 percent, which is far slower than the national average of 2.5 percent. Children 5 to 17 years old in Alaska have the second-fastest growth rate in the nation for that age group behind Nevada.

However, the number of 18- to 24-year-olds in Alaska shrank by half a percentage point, while nationwide the number shrank by 2.1 percent.

The remaining adult segment of Alaska residents ages 25 to 44 grew at a respectable rate of 2.9 percent between April 1990 and July 1991. That compared with 1.9 percent for the entire United States.

"We are still responding to the employment bank we got from the oil spill cleanup," Goldsmith said.

"And the recession in the Lower 48 has caused people to look to Alaska more than usual as a place of sanctuary from that," he said. "It is typical of what has happened in past recessions that hit the Lower 48."

Workers continue to flood the state in a "delayed response" to the jump in employment during the cleanup phase.



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census, The Anchorage Times

"People hear about the good times and even after the good times have passed and the jobs are taken, they continue to come looking for work," he said.

That may explain why the state's 18- to 24-year-olds show a smaller loss than most states as the baby bust plays itself out. Young workers are able to go far afield in search of work, said Greg Williams, a demographer for the Alaska Department of Labor.

Moreover, the 25- to 44-year-old range grew at a faster pace in Alaska than it did nationally, likely due to adventurous job seekers, the experts said.

Williams said growth rates among Alaska's children fell into a pattern according to parental age, with the 57,000 residents in the under age 5 group probably parented by the state's 56,000 18- to 24-year-olds and Alaska's 123,000 5- to 17-year-olds likely parented by the 222,000 25- to 44-

year-olds. "The rises in school-age population are tied to the ages of their parents. We have more mature families coming in and the highest migration ages are people in their 20s, with kids under 5," he said.

But because Alaska has such a small population, the data tends to be slightly skewed by even minor changes that can appear as large percentages, Williams said.

However, it is clear that Alaska's population is growing and aging far more rapidly than the nation as a whole, Goldsmith said.

"The over 65 group shows strong growth that represents that population group doubling in 10 years," he said. "That is consistent with the growth rate we had between 1980 and 1990."

Goldsmith attributed much of the rise in the number of senior citizens to state fiscal policies that

encourage older people to stay here or migrate to Alaska. To someone on a fixed income, as many seniors are, the longevity bonus, Permanent Fund dividend, property tax rebate and the lack of state income tax are strong incentives.

Alaska's encouragement of a graying population is just beginning to put increasing demands on public services at a time when the state can least afford it, he said. And as budgets tighten, more senior citizens will need the expensive basics of medical care and shelter.

"Our population growth doesn't indicate an increase in our tax capacity," Goldsmith said.

Paring down the services likely will discourage elderly residents from moving here and those who are staying in the state strictly for the financial benefits offered, he said.

There is a real financial incentive to these public programs, and it is a large reason why the over 65 population has doubled in the past 10 years," he said.

Goldsmith said the rise in older baby boomers, Alaska residents ages 45 to 64, is too steep compared with the national average to be a natural increase.

"This is not just an aging of the population. It is people coming in and fewer residents cycling out," he said.

Williams attributed the rise in part to "a wall of folks going over

that 44-year-old boundary," who came to Alaska as young adventurers when statehood was attained.

"A lot of our growth came at statehood, and those age groups are now getting older," Williams said. "In addition, the baby boom is more noticeable here because we have not had a larger older population."

Added to that is the tendency for the 44-plus group to bring parents to live with them as they raise their own children.

"It doesn't hurt that there are (state) benefits, and that may be an incentive. But I think of it more in family terms. We don't attract a lot of single older people as a place to retire, although it does happen, such as ex-military," he said.

Alaska is following a national trend in the graying of its population, said Ruth Golias, long-term care coordinator for the Older Alaskans Commission.

"The 75-plus and 85-plus groups are growing even faster," she said. "It is of increasing concern to all of us." But those over 60 comprise just 6.4 percent of the population, and the 24,000 residents over 65 number about 4 percent.

Connie Sipe, executive director of the Older Alaskans Commission, said that while the number of people over 65 almost doubled between 1980 and 1990, those over 75 grew 110 percent. Nation-

ally, the latter group increased by 25 percent.

"People are living longer, more seniors are staying here, Native elders are living longer, and Alaska is following the national trend of bringing elderly parents to live in the same household as their children and grandchildren," Sipe said. "And they don't necessarily come as dependents. It is often to help out."

State leaders already are grappling with the question of whether or not they can afford to actively encourage seniors to stay in the state, she said.

"We may not be able to afford the same benefits we offered to a much smaller population of elderly," she said. "We are not sure we can keep it up."

Already, waiting lists at pioneers' homes are two to four years, and the average admission age has risen to 82, Sipe said.

"One slip and fall on the ice, and that person can be a long-term care client," she said. "The people in our pioneer homes have much more serious care needs that we used to see."

But the news is not all troubling. More children are growing up with grandparents and contact with older people to enrich their lives. And the economy benefits greatly from the money that comes in from out-of-state in the form of federal funds and retirement checks from corporations and the military.

Hitchhikers' double murder captivated rural community

By TERRY WALLACE

Woollard said she remembers the day the bodies



Spell

Continued from page A1

nose), only to be bamboozled by "brannigan," an Irish slang term for a noisy night.

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housing and household statistics from the 1990 census show that for persons age 65 years and over, 74.3% of their housing units were owner occupied. Only 67.2% of housing units were owner occupied for the age group 35-64 years. In Alaska 22.1% of all households consist of one person living alone, with 13.7% of these households consisting of persons over the age of 65.

The number of persons age 65 years or older living alone increased 108% from 1980-1990 from 2,758 to 5,737. The United States' 1990 figures show 39.1% of one person households are persons over the age of 65.

There is no single explanation for the large increase in Alaska's older population during the 1980s. However, the primary factor is likely the aging of the population that migrated to Alaska during the post statehood period. Alaska's median age has increased from 22.9 in 1970 to 29.4 in 1990. The United States' median age in 1990 was 32.9 years. Other factors that have contributed to keeping Alaska's older population in Alaska include improved health care and long term care facilities, elimination of Alaska's income tax, the Permanent Fund Dividend program, the Longevity Bonus program, and property and sales tax exemptions.

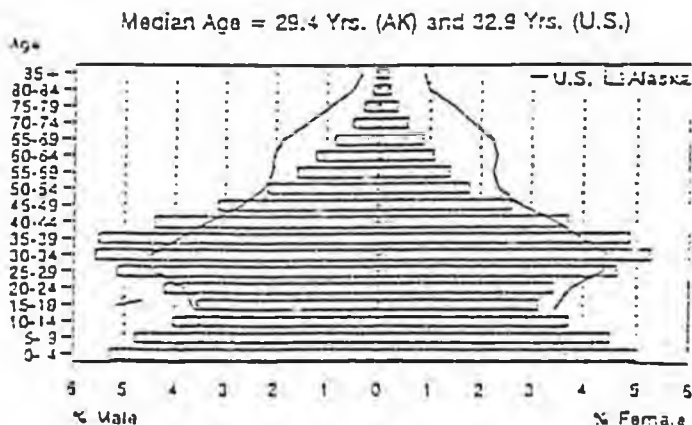
Table 1
Population Comparison for
Persons 65 Years and Older for the
State/Census Areas/Boroughs — 1980 & 1990

	1980	1990	Change 1980-90	Percent
Alaska	11,547	22,369	10,822	93.72
Aleutians East Borough	45	58	13	29.39
Aleutians West C.A.*	62	82	20	32.26
Anchorage Borough	3,520	8,256	4,736	134.50
Bethel C.A.	431	657	226	52.44
Bristol Bay Borough	25	42	17	68.00
Dillingham C.A.	122	205	83	68.03
Fairbanks North Star Borough	1,276	2,540	1,264	99.06
Haines Borough	78	182	104	133.33
Juneau Borough	771	1,364	593	76.91
Kenai Peninsula Borough	327	2,015	1,188	143.55
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	642	907	265	41.28
Kodiak Island Borough	255	425	170	66.67
Lake and Peninsula Borough	47	85	38	80.85
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	730	1,966	1,136	155.62
Nome C.A.	339	419	80	23.60
North Slope Borough	148	197	49	33.11
Northwest Arctic Borough	249	251	32	12.35
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	151	216	65	43.05
Sitka Borough	361	492	131	36.29
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon C.A.	192	235	43	22.40
Southeast Fairbanks C.A.	142	223	81	57.04
Valdez-Cordova C.A.	295	463	168	56.95
Wade Hampton C.A.	178	258	80	44.94
Wrangell-Petersburg C.A.	353	507	154	43.63
Yukon-Koyukuk C.A.	308	392	84	27.27

*C.A. = Census Area

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, STF1A

Alaska and U.S. Population Percent Distribution by Age and Sex 1990



Alaska Dept. of Labor, Research and Analysis
Demographics Unit