

**HB**

**332**

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: January 20, 1998

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/30/98

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

HB 332

HOUSE BILL NO. 332

ADOPTION PREFERENCE FOR RELATIVES

"An Act relating to adoptive placements by the Department of Health and Social Services."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] the same title  
[ ] a new title

[ ] additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
[ ] attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

[X] zero fiscal note(s) H+SS

[ ] zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Paul D...</i>	/			
<i>Car B...</i>	/			
<i>Car B...</i>	/			
<i>...</i>	/			
<i>...</i>	/			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE Car B...

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB332

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Relating to adoptive placements  
Sponsor: James  
Requestor: House (HES)

Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services  
BRU: Family and Youth Services  
Component: DFYS Central Office  
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 259  
See also (SN#): \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues:**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGES IN REVENUES						
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**FUND SOURCE**

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (please specify)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost 10.0

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This Bill has no impact on the Division of Family and Youth Services.

 Prepared by Russ E. Webb, Deputy Commissioner  
 Division Family & Youth Services  
 Approved by Commissioner Karen Payne, Commissioner  
 Agency Department of Health & Social Services

Phone 465-3030  
Date 04/27/98

Date 4/27/98

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## House Of Representatives

House District 34

### *Sponsor Statement*

#### **HB 332, Adoption Preference for Relatives**

Adoption has come a long way. Only a few decades ago veiled in secrecy, adoption has matured into an acceptable, respected and very much needed component of today's society. With acceptance and education, the process of adoption is evolving from its hush-hush beginnings to the front stage of social science allowing for a more open and healthy process for both the biological parents and the children.

The State of Alaska has over 400 children waiting in the system for a permanent home who have spent, on average, 1000 days- almost 3 years – waiting to be placed. Presently, there is a preference for placement with blood relatives when foster care, rather than adoption, is at issue.

The question is why?

HB 332, Adoption Placement for Relatives, corrects this incongruity and brings Alaska up to speed with the rest of the nation with respect to open adoptions by amending AS 47.14.100(a) to read:

Absent good cause to the contrary, the Department shall place a child released for adoptive purposes with a blood relative of the child if the blood relative has requested adoptive placement of the child.

Anything we can do to help these kids is in everyone's best interest.