

HB

402



Health, Education, and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives

HB 402 "AN ACT RELATING TO WELFARE REFORM"
SPONSOR STATEMENT

While the Department of Public Assistance has made strides in the application of welfare reform, lessons have been learned, and insight has been gained, that led us to propose a tune-up of public assistance.

The intent of HB 402 is to align department program operations with the work-first philosophy that has been held up by all of us as the goal. One of the key premises of this philosophy is that the labor market is the best test of an individual's employability. Another is that all individuals are capable of moving themselves and their families toward self-sufficiency. A third is that "real job" experience is the best way to specifically identify training needs.

HB 402 has made changes that in general terms:

- Implement a broader and more responsive diversion process to assist families to avoid dependency on cash benefits;
- Strengthen the "up-front message" to clients that public assistance is as much about employment as it is about providing cash benefits;
- Provide more consistent guidance with regard to assessment, emphasizing the utilization of the labor market as the best test of employability and a family strength-based approach versus an approach that emphasizes pre-determining family barriers;
- Implement a more complete subsidized wage program and expanding community service for those unable to obtain unsubsidized employment.

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: HB 402

BY REPRESENTATIVE DYSON

1 Page 19, line 31, following "(1)":

2 Insert "beginning on the date the department makes a finding that the family is
3 not in compliance under this subsection,"

4

5 Page 20, line 9, following "(2)":

6 Insert "beginning five months after the date the department made the finding that
7 the family was not in compliance under this subsection,"

8

9 Page 20, line 20, following "(3)":

10 Insert "beginning nine months after the date the department made the finding
11 that the family was not in compliance under this subsection,"

FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB 402
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 Title: RELATING TO THE ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BRU: Public Assistance
 Component: ATAP
 Sponsor: HOUSE (HES)
 Requestor: HOUSE (HES) Component Number: 220

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
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 EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						
---------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: _____

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Although this proposed legislation may allow more than 20% of the eligible ATAP caseload to receive benefits beyond 60 months, there are no projected financial impacts. The ATAP program is funded in part by the federal TANF block grant which does not vary regardless of the number of families served. Also, federal law requires the State to contribute a fixed amount of state funds toward the program, called maintenance of effort (MOE). Additionally, the provision that will allow the Department to offer transitional supportive services to clients no longer receiving a cash benefit will result in more families remaining off the program, thus reducing costs in the Temporary Assistance benefits component.

Prepared by: Jim Nordlund Phone 465-5835
 Division: Public Assistance Date/Time 02/13/2002
 Approved by: Elmer A. Lindstrom, Deputy Commissioner Date 02/14/2002
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

