

**HB**

**402**

SFIN

FILE

REPORTED OUT  
 APR 24 2002  
 SENATE FINANCE  
 COMMITTEE

**SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

DATE: 4/11/02

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
 IN TO OFFICE: 25 April 2002

Finance Committee considered **CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 402(FIN)**  
**HB 402 ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

"An Act relating to diversion payments, wage subsidies, cash assistance, and self-sufficiency services provided under the Alaska temporary assistance program; relating to the food stamp program; relating to child support cases that include persons who receive cash assistance or self-sufficiency services under the Alaska temporary assistance program; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous 5 CS CS HB 402 (HES)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**Senate Bill:**

- same title
- new title
- House Bill:**
- same title
- technical title
- new: SCR # \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
HHS	3/14/02		✓	#1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>			✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>			✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>			✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
COCHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
COCHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

APR 24 2002

SENATE FINANCE  
COMMITTEE

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
Bill Version: HB 402  
( H ) Publish Date: 2/15/02

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						
<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>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( 0 )</b>						
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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 (Specify Type--do not abbreviate)						
<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>

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



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.



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

HB 402  
ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For five years, the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program has assisted families in transitioning to work and self-sufficiency. Many of the changes in HB 402 were initiated as responses to the research of the *American Institute for Full Employment*. The *Division of Public Assistance* has incorporated that research, in addition to proposals by the bill's sponsors, to improve program policy with the goal of successful outcomes for families. This resulting legislation contains these major points:

- Conversion of Food Stamp allotments for use as a wage subsidy provides an incentive to employers to hire or create new jobs for applicants otherwise less job-ready.
- Increases in the amount of diversion payments from an amount equal to two months to three months of benefits will provide an incentive to families to use diversion, rather than entering the program.
- Progressive sanctions promote adherence to program rules and ultimately, encourage self-sufficiency.
- Clarification of the distinction between cash assistance and self-sufficiency services allows the Department to provide work-related supports and services, such as transportation and clothing, to families whose cash benefit has ended.

The following is an analysis, in very general terms, of HB 402.

**Section 1**

Clarifies the distinction between cash assistance, diversion payments, and self-sufficiency services regarding the child support enforcement agency's right to recover the costs of paternity tests from the father.

**Section 2**

Distinguishes between cash assistance, diversion payments, and self-sufficiency services regarding genetic tests from the putative father.

**Section 3**

"Assistance..." is renamed "cash assistance."

#### Section 4

Allotments under the Food Stamp Program of the U.S. Code Collection may not be subject to borough levies and sales taxes. Food stamp allotments paid as a wage subsidy are not considered an allotment under the U.S. Code Collection.

#### Section 5

Allotments under the Food Stamp Program of the U.S. Code Collection may not be subject to city levies and sales taxes.

#### Section 6

Distinguishes between adult public assistance, temporary cash assistance, diversion payments, and self-sufficiency services regarding the department's responsibility to create regulations necessary to provide these benefits.

#### Section 7

Distinguishes between cash assistance, diversion payments, and self-sufficiency services regarding legislators' requests for financial information concerning the department's eligibility determination of a person applying for these benefits.

#### Section 8

Distinguishes between cash assistance, diversion payments, and self-sufficiency services regarding legislators' use of financial information concerning the department's eligibility determination of a person applying for these benefits.

#### Section 9

"Food coupons" is changed to "food stamp allotments," and recipients may receive all or part of these as a wage subsidy if (1) the householder's family is eligible for A.T.A.P., and (2) the department determines that this wage subsidy conversion helps the householder to complete their family self-sufficiency plan.

#### Section 10

"Food coupons" is changed to "food stamp allotments" regarding their use to purchase food or certain items for procuring food. This does not apply to food stamp allotments converted to a wage subsidy.

#### Section 11

Updates the name of the federal food stamp program.

#### Section 12

Regarding violations and penalties, the misuse of food stamp allotments, including wage subsidies, is a misdemeanor.

#### Section 13

Defines food stamp allotments (formerly "food coupons") as any coupon, stamp, electronic benefit, or allotment under the current federal program.

#### Section 14

Updates the name of the federal food stamp program.

### Section 15

Distinguishes between cash assistance, diversion payments, and self-sufficiency services regarding the department's duty to provide these benefits under A.T.A.P.

### Section 16

Deletes redundancy and names the subsection.

### Section 17

Clarifies "benefits" as "cash assistance" in terms of the 60-month limit for receiving these benefits. Distinguishes between cash assistance and self-sufficiency services regarding a family's 120-month ineligibility after being convicted of fraudulently receiving these benefits. Specifies a family's ineligibility for cash assistance due to refusal of or voluntary separation from suitable employment. Distinguishes between cash assistance and self-sufficiency services regarding a family's ineligibility for both due to intentional transfer of assets at less than fair-market value for the purpose of receiving these benefits. Concerning the administrative disqualifications for eligibility, this section distinguishes between cash assistance and self-sufficiency services. Changes the cap from 20% to 25% of families receiving cash assistance that may receive exemptions to the 60-month limit. "Assistance" is to be regarded as "cash assistance" regarding alien qualifications for receiving services.

### Section 18

Deletes redundancy within the section.

### Section 19

Differentiates between cash assistance and self-sufficiency services. Applicants must report prior involvement in these programs in other states.

### Section 20

Specifies "assistance" as "cash assistance" regarding this chapter's direction for compliance with the child support enforcement agency.

### Section 21

Specifies "assistance" as "cash assistance" regarding family eligibility.

### Section 22

Specifies "assistance" as "cash assistance" regarding the amounts of monthly cash assistance available.

### Section 23

Specifies "assistance" as "cash assistance" regarding the 50% reduction during July, August, and September.

### Section 24

Specifies "assistance" as "cash assistance" regarding the department's reduction for substandard shelter costs.

### Section 25

All or part of a family's cash assistance and food stamp allotments may be converted to wage subsidies paid to the employer who employs a person in the family at a wage higher than the total of the wage subsidy.

### Section 26

Explains the department's ability to offer a lump-sum diversion payment replacing cash assistance if the applicant is job-ready and in need of short-term financial assistance and self-sufficiency services. This section also names self-sufficiency services as within the department's regulation.

### Section 27

Deletes redundancy in the subsection and allows for the department to pay a diversion payment to a family eligible for cash assistance and containing a job-ready individual.

### Section 28

Includes self-sufficiency services with diversion payments in determining a family's immediate needs. A diversion payment cannot be more than what would have been the family's first three (previously two) months of cash assistance.

### Section 29

Adds specification (of the self-sufficiency services appropriate to a family's needs) to the family's diversion payment agreement.

### Section 30

Adds limit of four diversion payments that a family may receive, which are paid once per 12 months.

### Section 31

Specifies "assistance" as "cash assistance" regarding assistance to minors.

### Section 32

Specifies reductions in "benefits" as "cash assistance" or "self-sufficiency services" regarding sanctions for families not cooperating with their respective self-sufficiency plan.

### Section 33

Specifies the 60-month limit as pertaining to cash assistance. Exemptions are still possible.

### Section 34

Adds provision that the department may waive self-sufficiency plan requirements and provide only self-sufficiency services according to the need of certain families who no longer qualify for cash assistance due to employment, reaching the 60-month limit, refusal or voluntary separation from suitable employment, unqualified alien status, or a request for only self-sufficiency services.

### Section 35

Clarifies that, after a family receives 24 months of cash assistance, they must begin their work activity assignment to continue receiving cash assistance or self-sufficiency services.

### Section 36

Specifies "assistance" as "cash assistance" regarding a participant's cooperation with the child support enforcement agency.

### Section 37

Specifies "assistance" as "cash assistance" regarding alienation and attachment.

### Section 38

Differentiates between cash assistance and self-sufficiency services regarding the department's cooperative agreements with other departments and organizations in developing job, training, or educational programs for families eligible for these benefits.

#### Section 39

Differentiates between cash assistance, diversion payments, and self-sufficiency services regarding resources for the A.T.A.P. Emergency Account in the general fund.

#### Section 40

Differentiates between cash assistance, diversion payments, and self-sufficiency services regarding appeal hearings that consider the department's determination of these benefits to that family.

#### Section 41

These amendments initiate a graduated sanction system for families who do not comply with their self-sufficiency plan, who fail to participate in required work activities, or who fail to comply with the child support enforcement agency. (The following graduated reductions are not based on a family's maximum cash assistance; the percentage reductions are based on the maximum cash assistance available to the same size family that has no countable income.) (1) On the date that the department finds noncompliance, a 40% reduction in cash assistance will be imposed. Compliance would re-initiate full payment of benefits. (2) Five months after the date that the department finds noncompliance, a 75% reduction will be imposed. Again, compliance would re-initiate full payment of benefits. (3) Nine months after the date that the department finds noncompliance, a 100% reduction will be imposed. The family would be required to reapply for benefits, if so desired.

#### Section 42

The department may not impose sanctions (2) and (3) from Section 41 above until there is (a) documented evidence of an attempt to visit the family's home after sanction (1) is imposed; and (b) a written report summarizing the results of that home visit and as well as other opportunities for the family to acquire needed resources in the community. If the department does not impose sanctions under this subsection, then they can manage the family's cash assistance as they regular e.

#### Section 43

Names "assistance" or "services" as "cash assistance, diversion payments, or self-sufficiency services" regarding an individual's liability to the department for the value of these benefits if improperly obtained.

#### Section 44

Names "benefits" and "services" as "cash assistance, diversion payments, or self-sufficiency services" regarding the state's right to recover costs of investigation and prosecution of the civil action for the improper acquisition of these benefits.

#### Section 45

Adds departmental responsibility of regulating sanctions and recovery of costs.

#### Section 46

Amends the definition of self-sufficiency services to be: work-related services, community service work referrals, child care assistance, emergency assistance, service vouchers, equipment vouchers, work stipends, transportation assistance, wage subsidies, and other work supports and services that promote family self-sufficiency.

**Section 47**

Adds definition of cash assistance: assistance for basic living expenses provided under A.T.A.P. including cash, vouchers, and third-party vendor payments. This does not include diversion payments or self-sufficiency services. A diversion payment is defined in AS 47.27.026.

**Section 48**

Repeals what was the definition of "assistance for basic living expenses." It is now called "assistance" per Section 47 (above).

**Section 49**

State agencies affected by this legislation may adopt regulations necessary to implement these changes.

**Section 50**

Adds changes in catchlines.

**Section 51**

Effective date.

**Section 52**

Effective date.



## Anchorage Daily News

Michael J. Sexton  
President and Publisher

Patrick Dougherty  
Editor

Steve Lindbeck  
Associate Editor

Founded in 1946 by Norman C. Brown

Fuller A. Cowell, Publisher, 1943-1979  
Gerold T. Gilly, Publisher, 1984-1993

Kathleen Fauning, Editor and Publisher, 1971-1983  
Lawrence Fauning, Editor and Publisher, 1967-1971

# OPINION

## Welfare reform II

*Big battles are over;  
fine-tuning is under way*

**F**ive years have passed since Alaska adopted welfare reform. The changes put a five-year lifetime limit on welfare for most cases. With the first clients now approaching the limit, welfare rules are back on the agenda for the Legislature and the Knowles administration. A pending bill (HB 402) would give the state more flexibility to deal with the neediest clients, more clout to enforce the rules and more room to help employers who might hire welfare clients.

Overall, the changes are reasonably balanced. The biggest one would lift the cap that says no more than 20 percent of welfare recipients can exceed the five-year lifetime limit. States can use their own money to go beyond the cap, which is set in federal law, but the feds won't increase funding for the extra cases.

Lifting the limit — either to 30 percent as Rep. Fred Dyson wants, or removing it altogether as the Knowles administration prefers — would give the state more flexibility to ensure children are protected as welfare rolls shrink. In the early years of reform, the easiest cases made the transition from welfare to work. Caseloads have dropped by 40 percent, according to state public assistance director Jim Nordlund.

With more and more people moving to work, though, those still stuck on welfare are the most difficult cases. Alaska extends the five-year limit for disabled clients, those caring for disabled children, or cases where domestic violence is an issue. As more and more of those Alaskans approach the five-year lifetime limit, it's important to make sure the safety net can handle those who have good reasons to need further assistance.

On a different front, Rep. Dyson wants to stiffen sanctions for slackers. Those who don't follow their plans for achieving self-sufficiency, or who quit jobs without good cause, or who skate on child support would lose a bigger share of their benefits. The longer they take to get with the program, the more aid they would lose. Eventually all benefits could be cut off.

Public assistance director Nordlund doesn't object to this change because the bill has safeguards. It requires a review to protect against errors and to make sure children aren't endangered by the sanctions. Benefits would be restored as soon as the client comes into compliance.

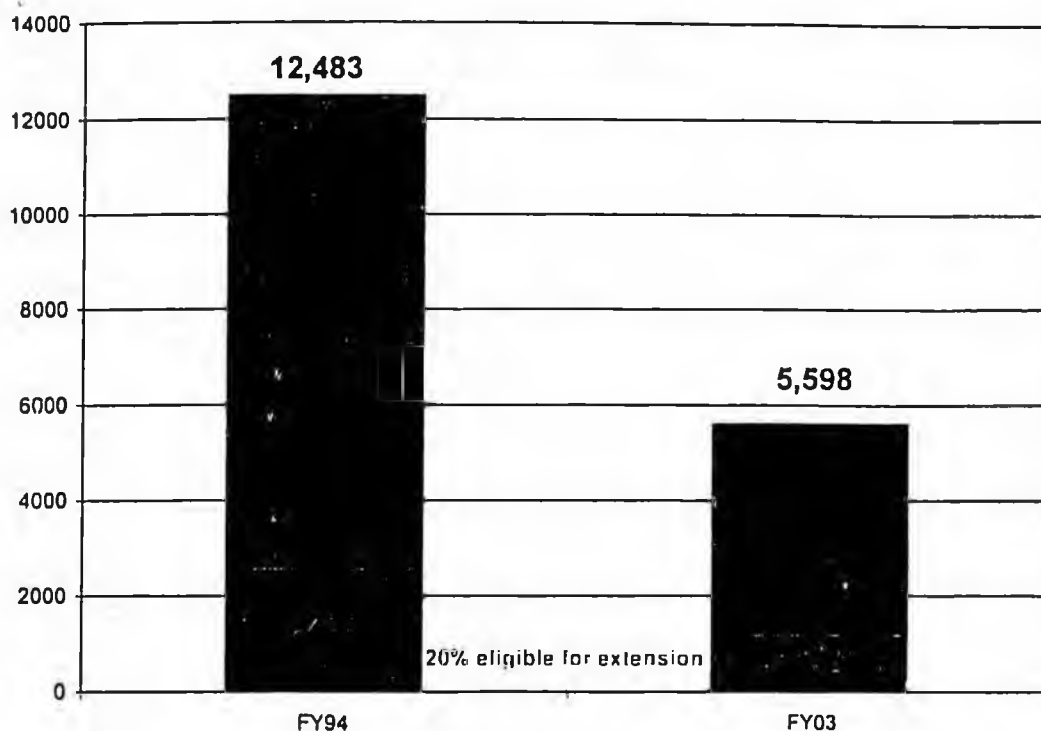
Rep. Dyson also wants to make it easier for employers to get wage subsidies if they hire welfare clients. Existing law allows the state to assign a client's cash benefits to the client's employer, as an incentive to hire someone transitioning off welfare. Rep. Dyson's change would allow food stamps to be converted into wage subsidies.

Welfare reform triggered a bitter political fight the first time around. The Republican Legislature in 1995 passed a punitive bill slashing benefits. Gov. Knowles sought a more humane version of reform and vetoed the bill. Along the way, the two sides traded pointed words.

Tempers cooled during the off-season. When the 1996 session ended, the governor and Legislature had crafted a pragmatic reform package aimed at moving welfare clients to work. It set a five-year lifetime limit for most families, while supplying more aid for child care and transportation.

This year's update of welfare laws is a compromise that steers clear of partisan posturing. Alaska's welfare reform system doesn't need a full-blown overhaul. It simply needs a few well-considered adjustments, and that's what these changes do.

**Comparison of Number of Families  
Eligible for 60-month Exemption, FY94 and FY03**



In FY94 the average monthly ATAP caseload was 12,483. By FY 2003, we expect the caseload will be 5,598. 20% of the FY94 caseload is 2,497, and 20% of the FY03 average caseload is 1,120. This is a 55% decline in the number of families eligible for an exemption to the 60-month limit.

**Projected Number of Temporary Assistance Families  
Exceeding the 60-Month Time Limit**

Fiscal Year	A Average Monthly Caseload	B Change From Previous Year	C Exemptions Allowed under 20% Cap (A X 20%)	D Projected Average Families Over 60 mo.	E Hardship Families Projected Eligible for Extension	F Non-Hardship Families Cut-Off (D - E)	G Hardship Families Cut-Off (E - C)
FY94	12483		2497				
FY97	12096	0.6%	2419				
FY98	10514	-13.1%	2103				
FY99	8890*	-15.4%	1778				
FY00	7596*	-14.6%	1519				
FY01	6091**	-19.8%	1240				
FY02	5888	-3.3%	1178				
FY03	5598	-4.9%	1120	587	473	114	0
FY04	5262	-5.0%	1052	1053	774	279	0
FY05	4900	-6.9%	980	1473	1000	473	20
FY06				1893	1195		
FY07				2313	1362		
FY08				2733	1507		
FY09				3153	1631		
FY10				3573	1738		

Note: All Figures FY01 and later are estimates

\* TCC excluded

\*\* TCC, T&H, AVCP excluded FY01 forward

## **Exemption Criteria for Families Reaching the Temporary Assistance 60-Month Time Limit**

State law provides that recipients of Temporary Assistance are eligible for an exemption from the 60-month time limit if they meet certain criteria. The Department has developed these criteria for adoption in regulation. Exemptions are limited to families in the following circumstances:

- **Victim of domestic violence**  
A family would receive an exemption if an individual were unable to accept or keep employment, participate in work activities or achieve self-sufficiency as a result of the effects of domestic violence.
- **Adult who is physically or mentally unable to perform gainful activity**  
An exemption would be allowed for families with an adult who has a diagnosed physical condition or mental disorder severe enough to limit their ability to secure or retain full-time employment.
- **Parent who is providing care for a child who is experiencing a disability**  
A parent would be exempted if he or she is not able to work because they are needed to care for a disabled child with a diagnosed severe emotional, mental or physical condition. A licensed medical professional must verify the need for care.
- **Hardship**  
Hardship means that a family is experiencing circumstances outside their control that prevent the family from reaching self-sufficiency AND the loss of Temporary Assistance benefits would result in conditions that threaten the health or safety of the family.

### **Circumstances Outside of the Family's Control include:**

- A specific catastrophic event that meets the criteria for a formal disaster declaration under state or federal laws impacts the family in a way that reasonably prevents self-sufficiency;
- An adult in the family has a documented functional impairment that interferes with their ability to earn a wage sufficient to support the family;
- An adult in the family is not able to work because they are needed to care for a disabled adult relative with a diagnosed severe emotional, mental or physical condition. A licensed medical professional must verify the need for care.

### **Conditions that Threaten the Health or Safety of the Family include:**

- The family will not have sufficient income or resources to provide for housing, food, transportation, or other essential needs;
- The family does not have access to support from any other source to meet those needs;
- The family does not have access to appropriate child care or other employment supports needed to maintain employment;
- The family will be unable to stay together if benefits are ended; and
- The family is pursuing plans with Division of Family and Youth Services for the safe return of a child temporarily removed from the home or to prevent removal of a child from the home, and the plans would be disrupted if ATAP benefits ended, resulting in the child being at risk of placement in emergency shelter or foster care.

## FAMILIES FACING THE ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 60-MONTH TIME LIMIT

The Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) provides assistance with basic needs and employment services to needy Alaskan families. Eligibility for the program is time-limited – state and federal law limits most families to a lifetime maximum of 60-months of assistance.

July 2002 marks the first month that some families in Alaska will reach the 60-month time limit for receiving Temporary Assistance. Although the time limit on Temporary Assistance is a key element of welfare reform, there are truly needy families who, despite their best efforts, will need continued support beyond 60 months. These families experience serious personal and social problems that interfere with their ability to find and keep work.

A survey of case managers who work with long-term recipients (those who have had 40 or more months of assistance) completed by the Division of Public Assistance reveals that the challenges faced by these families mirror national data on welfare recipients and include:

- **Physical health problems** - 49% suffer with moderate to severe health problems that make it difficult or impossible to work.
- **Disabled children in the home** – 21% care for children with severe medical or emotional problems.
- **Disabled relative in the home** – 11% care for another adult with a severe medical problem.
- **Domestic violence** - 23% reported family violence that impacted their ability to find or keep work.
- **Mental health disorders** - 33% experienced mental health problems that interfere with employment.
- **Substance abuse** - 16% have problems with alcohol or other drugs.
- **Learning disabilities** – 12% experience a learning disability, which makes it difficult to read, write or handle mathematic calculations.
- **Literacy** – 18% have low literacy rates.
- **Multiple challenges** – 56% experienced two or more challenges, 28% faced three or more challenges.



# Real Families With Real Needs

## Examples of Families who are Helped by HB 402

**Frank\*** is a 48-year-old father of two children whose wife, Marianne, has significant medical problems requiring him to care for her. Marianne is permanently disabled and receives Social Security. Frank and their two children receive Temporary Assistance. One of the children is blind, requiring extra care. Frank participates in a home-based training program while he cares for his family, and plans to begin his own computer repair business, but it could be awhile before he works his way off assistance. The family has only 6 months before reaching the time limit.

**Diane** is a 40-year-old single mother with two children, one with severe medical problems. The child is in special education classes, but is ill often, which requires Diane to be available for care. She has not found an employer who is able to accommodate her need for frequent sick leave. The family has only 5 months left before reaching the time limit.

**Theresa** is a 36-year-old mother battling depression while raising three children. In addition to Theresa's medical condition, she had serious challenges with a teenage son. Theresa and her son are both doing better and she hopes her medical condition is stabilized. Theresa has been working part-time this last year and is attempting to get a full-time job. The family has 8 months before reaching the time limit.

**Deborah** is a 46-year-old mother supporting her husband Charlie, who is incapacitated, and their five children. Deborah dropped out of high school and has minimal job skills. The family does not own a car and must use public transportation. Charlie is applying for Social Security disability benefits, and Deborah works full-time, resulting in a very low monthly benefit payment – but the family's assistance is still counting towards the 60-month time limit. They have four kids, one with a serious medical problem, plus they took in a nephew who might otherwise have gone into the child welfare system. The family has 8 months before reaching the time limit.

**Helen** is a 27-year-old single mother with 3 children. She has a learning disability and a low reading level and has received some remedial help in literacy. She is now employed and has a supportive boss who helps her work through the learning difficulties she encounters on the job. With further assistance, Helen may attain full-time employment at a higher wage, but it could take some time. The family has 13 months before reaching the time limit.

*\*all names have been changed to protect confidentiality*

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/3/02

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 4/10/02

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 402(FIN)  
HB 402 ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

"An Act relating to diversion payments, wage subsidies, cash assistance, and self-sufficiency services provided under the Alaska temporary assistance program; relating to the food stamp program; relating to child support cases that include persons who receive cash assistance or self-sufficiency services under the Alaska temporary assistance program; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with S CS CSHB 402 (HES)
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- attached amendment(s)
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 same title  
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**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
DHSS	2/14/02		0	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>Tom Wells</i>	✓			
<i>Betty Davis</i>				✓
<i>Angie Ward</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>Loren J. Jensen</i>	✓			

**Subject: SFIN**

**Date: Wed, 24 Apr 2002 10:37:26 -0800**

**From: Alyson Stogsdill <Alyson\_Stogsdill@legis.state.ak.us>**

**To: Mindy\_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us**

Hi Mindy. I see SFIN adjourned before public comment on HB402. Will it be up this afternoon or only the budget bills? I have a lady who would like to testify and doesn't have transportation to the LIO. I'd like to see her get on as an offnet if possible the next time the bill comes up. Her name is Lucinda Knopp at 283-4752.  
Thanks for the help.

-Alyson  
Kenai LIO

