

SB

1988

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: April 20, 2001

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 04/24/01

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 198

"An Act establishing the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with CS SB 198 (HES)
- adopt previous CS _____ (_____)
- 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#
Health & Social Services	4/24/01	x		1

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>Loren A. Simon</i>	✓		<i>Finance</i>	<i>Cute need to take a fiscal Note</i>
<i>Gary White</i>	✓		<i>close</i>	<i>look at</i>
<i>Betty Dammitt</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Rick Halford

President of the Senate

While in Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465-4958

While in Interim:
P.O. Box 670190
Chugiak, AK 99567
907-694-4958

Senate Bill 198

Statewide Suicide Prevention Council

"The greatest gift we can give is the gift of life."

Suicide is preventable.

It is devastating to lose someone to suicide at any age, but it is especially tragic to lose a young person who has so much to live for. Suicide is a final cry of despair, and we need to hear that cry.

In 1999, the United States Surgeon General issued "A Call to Action" to prevent suicide. The report made 15 recommendations categorized in the areas of awareness, intervention and methodology. Hearing the cries and responding, Senate Bill 198 is another step in answering both the states and the national call to action.

SB 198 will establish a statewide suicide prevention council made up of fourteen private and public members representing rural and urban Alaska. Two members from both the House and Senate would sit on the council. The governor would appoint ten members, including experts in substance abuse and mental health, as well as people who have been directly impacted by suicide, and who work with youth across the state.

Suicide is an on-going epidemic in many parts of the state --- especially rural Alaska and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley --- and the numbers are at an all-time high. This is heart breaking. We all must work together to reduce the toll suicide is having on the people of our state.

The council will focus on finding ways to reduce suicide rates, broaden public awareness of the suicide warning signs, and enhance suicide prevention services and programs throughout the state. Each March the council will submit a report to the Legislature and the governor with its findings and recommendations.

A prior effort to study suicide in Alaska was initiated over twelve years ago when Senator Willie Henslev brought the issue to the forefront. The lives of Alaskans are still at risk.

Establishing this suicide prevention council has bi-partisan support in the Senate. I sincerely urge all members of the committee to join me in supporting SB 198 by offering a hand of support and lifting them from despair.

"Hope - the major weapon against the suicide impulse." Karl Menninger

Received via email on 4/23/01

Dear Senator Halford:

I am writing to express my support for SB 198, creating a state suicide prevention council. I think I speak for many people in the Yukon-Koyukuk region when I express my gratitude for your attention to the issue of suicide. Since I became the Director of Yukon Koyukuk Mental Health here in Galena, I have seen how the suicide of one young person devastates hundreds of friends, associates, and loved ones. The people here want badly for the dying to stop. Supporting them with a council and a coordinator is a good idea.

I favor creating a suicide prevention council, but I believe it will be very important to ensure that the areas and people who are losing loved ones to suicide have the greatest say on the council. I worked in Anchorage for years and know first-hand that urban folks have a hard time understanding how things work in the Bush. Although suicide is not just a rural, Native problem, our people out here are disproportionately represented in the suicide statistics. They must be allowed to speak and plan for themselves. I also hope to see a statewide suicide prevention plan and a funded coordinator position to carry out those plans.

Again, I support your bill and hope to see our state move forward in addressing this difficult problem.

Sincerely,
Diana Weber, MS
Director, Yukon Koyukuk Mental Health Program

550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1820
Anchorage, AK 99501
Main line: (907) 269-7960
FAX: (907) 269-7965

The TRUST

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

April 17, 2001

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Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Halford:

Subject: Support for Suicide Prevention Council

This letter is to acknowledge the Trust's appreciation for your efforts at addressing the problem of Alaska's high suicide rate by establishing a statewide Suicide Prevention Council, and to confirm the Trust's commitment regarding funds for this initiative.

For FY02, the Trust is willing to match \$125,000 in MHTAAR with \$125,000 GF/MH to establish the Council and facilitate its work.

Trustees look forward to working with the Council and appreciate your willingness to support this important effort.

Sincerely,



Jeff Jessee
Executive Director

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: SB 198
() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
Title: Statewide Suicide Prevention Council BRU: Administrative Services
Component: Commissioner's Office
Sponsor: Senator Halford et al
Requester: Senate (HES) Component Number: 317

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services	139.2	143.4	147.7	152.1	156.7	161.4
Travel	115.0	115.5	116.0	116.5	117.0	117.5
Contractual	84.8	90.1	85.3	80.4	75.3	70.1
Supplies	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Equipment	10.0					
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	350.0	350.0	350.0	350.0	350.0	350.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE 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	175.0	175.0	175.0	175.0	175.0	175.0
1092 MHTAAR	175.0	175.0	175.0	175.0	175.0	175.0
TOTAL	350.0	350.0	350.0	350.0	350.0	350.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	2	2	2	2	2	2
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill establishes a 14-member Suicide Prevention Council. The Council's operating costs would include the salaries for a partially exempt Executive Director and administrative assistant (coordinator), office space, travel and per diem costs for the Council to meet twice a year and monthly by teleconference. *Note that travel costs for state employee Council members would be absorbed by their home agencies' budgets.* The balance of the available budget would be applied towards contracts for Suicide Prevention statewide programs and public awareness campaigns, and the completion of an annual report. See attached cost detail.

Prepared by: Sarah Brinkley, Administrative Manager Phone 465-3167
Division: DMHDD Date/Time 4/23/01 12:45 PM
Approved by: Elmer A. Lindstrom, Special Assistant Date 4/23/01 12:45 PM
Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

ANALYSIS: (continued)

FY02 cost detail:

\$91.5 r26 partially exempt Executive Director
\$47.7 r15 partially exempt Admin. Assistant/coordinator
\$115.0 meetings of the full Council
\$15.0 625 sq ft office space for Exec Dir and Administrator
\$ 8.0 monthly Meet Me teleconferences for the full Council
\$ 5.0 contract for annual report
\$56.8 contracts for statewide suicide prevention planning
\$ 1.0 office supplies for two
\$10.0 computers and office furnishings for two

\$350.0 FY02 total

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<i>Gary White</i>	S.H.			
<i>Betty Dawn</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			



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Jeff Jessee
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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE




Interim:

600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-3370
(907) 376-3157 Fax

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-6600
(907) 465-3805 Fax

SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE SENATOR LYDA GREEN, CHAIR

To: Senate HESS Members

From: Aurora Hauke, Committee Aide 

Date: April 24, 2001

Subject: SB 198 Statewide Suicide Prevention Council

Please find attached a copy of CS SB 198 (HES), which has incorporated the conceptual amendments passed out of Senate HESS yesterday.

In an effort to have the bill read across the floor today, I was not able to have a work draft prepared for the committee's approval. This bill will be in Senate Finance next.

SENATOR LOREN LEMAN, VICE-CHAIR
SENATOR JERRY WARD, SENATOR GARY WILKEN, SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS

SENATE BILL NO. 198

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS HALFORD, Lincoln, Olson, Hoffman, Ward, Green, Ellis

Introduced: 4/20/01

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council; and providing for an
2 effective date."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 39.25.120(c) is amended to read:

5 (c) The following positions in the state service constitute the partially exempt
6 service:

7 (1) deputy and assistant commissioners of the principal departments of
8 the executive branch, including the assistant adjutant general of the Department of
9 Military and Veterans' Affairs;

10 (2) the directors of the major divisions of the principal departments of
11 the executive branch and the regional directors of the Department of Transportation
12 and Public Facilities;

13 (3) attorney members of the staff of the Department of Law, of the
14 public defender agency, and of the office of public advocacy in the Department of

- 1 Administration;
- 2 (4) one private secretary for each head of a principal department in the
- 3 executive branch;
- 4 (5) employees of councils, boards, or commissions established by
- 5 statute in the Office of the Governor or the office of the lieutenant governor, unless a
- 6 different classification is provided by statute;
- 7 (6) not more than two special assistants to the commissioner of each of
- 8 the principal departments of the executive branch, but the number may be increased if
- 9 the partially exempt service is extended under AS 39.25.130 to include the additional
- 10 special assistants;
- 11 (7) the principal executive officer of the following boards, councils, or
- 12 commissions:
- 13 (A) Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission;
- 14 (B) Professional Teaching Practices Commission;
- 15 (C) Parole Board;
- 16 (D) Board of Nursing;
- 17 (E) Real Estate Commission;
- 18 (F) Alaska Royalty Oil and Gas Development Advisory Board;
- 19 (G) Alaska State Council on the Arts;
- 20 (H) Alaska Police Standards Council;
- 21 (I) Alaska Commission on Aging;
- 22 (J) Alaska Mental Health Board;
- 23 (K) State Medical Board;
- 24 (L) Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education;
- 25 (M) Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse;
- 26 **(N) Statewide Suicide Prevention Council;**
- 27 (8) Alaska Pioneers' Home managers;
- 28 (9) hearing examiners in the Department of Revenue;
- 29 (10) the comptroller in the division of treasury, Department of
- 30 Revenue;
- 31 (11) airport managers in the Department of Transportation and Public

1 Facilities employed at the Anchorage and Fairbanks International Airports;

2 (12) the deputy director of the division of insurance in the Department
3 of Community and Economic Development;

4 (13) the executive director and staff of the Alaska Public Offices
5 Commission;

6 (14) the rehabilitation administrator of the Workers' Compensation
7 Board;

8 (15) guards employed by the Department of Public Safety for
9 emergencies;

10 (16) marine pilot coordinator of the Board of Marine Pilots;

11 (17) employees of the unit established under AS 44.37.050;

12 (18) guards employed by the Department of Corrections, other than in
13 state correctional facilities, to carry out the responsibility of the commissioner of
14 Corrections under AS 33.30.071(b);

15 (19) hearing officers and administrative law judges of the Regulatory
16 Commission of Alaska.

17 * Sec. 2. AS 44.29 is amended by adding new sections to read:

18 **Article 4. Statewide Suicide Prevention Council.**

19 **Sec. 44.29.300. Council established.** There is established in the Department
20 of Health and Social Services the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council, consisting of
21 ¹⁵/~~14~~ members, as follows: am #4

22 (1) two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the
23 senate, one of whom shall be a member of the majority and one of whom shall be a
24 member of the minority;

25 (2) two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the
26 speaker of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the
27 majority and one of whom shall be a member of the minority;

28 (3) 10 members appointed by the governor, as follows:

29 (A) ~~two persons~~ ^{one person} who are employed in the executive branch of
30 state government; am #4

31 (B) one member of the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and

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Drug Abuse;

(C) one member of the Alaska Mental Health Board;

(D) one person recommended by the Alaska Federation of

Natives, Inc.;

(E) one person who is a counselor in a secondary school;

(F) one adult who is active in a statewide youth organization;

(G) one person who has experienced the death by suicide of a member of the person's family;

(H) one person who resides in a rural community in the state that is not connected by road or the Alaska marine highway to the main road system of the state; and

(I) one person who is under the age of 18.

Sec. 44.29.310. Term of office. (a) The governor shall appoint the members

of the council under AS 44.29.300(3)(D) - (I) for staggered terms of four years.

(b) The governor shall fill a vacancy of a member on the council appointed under AS 44.29.300(3)(D) - (I) by appointment for the unexpired part of the vacated term.

(c) Members of the council serve at the pleasure of the governor. The governor shall replace a member who, by poor attendance or lack of contribution to the council's work, demonstrates ineffectiveness as a member. In this subsection, "poor attendance" means the failure to attend three or more consecutive meetings.

Sec. 44.29.320. Compensation, per diem, and expenses. The members of the council who are not state employees are not entitled to compensation for service on the council, but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

Sec. 44.29.330. Officers and staff. (a) The council, by a majority of its membership, shall annually elect a presiding officer and other officers it considers necessary from among its membership.

(b) The council may employ a coordinator to assist the council. The coordinator is in the partially exempt service. The coordinator shall be directly responsible to the council in the performance of the coordinator's duties.

(c) ~~advisory panel~~ advisory panel language who compensation, ~~per diem, and travel~~ per diem. serves at pleasure of council, ~~not entitled to travel or~~ per diem.

minister, rabbi, youth pastor

(S) one person who is a member of the clergy am #4 pt. 2

am. #3

The council shall annually review the performance of the coordinator.

am 1

1 **Sec. 44.29.340. Meetings.** The council may meet, by teleconference or
2 otherwise, as often as considered necessary by the presiding officer of the council.

3 **Sec. 44.29.350. Duties.** The council shall serve in an advisory capacity to the
4 legislature and the governor with respect to what actions can and should be taken to

5 (1) improve health and wellness throughout the state by reducing
6 suicide and its effect on individuals, families, and communities;

7 (2) broaden the public's awareness of suicide and the risk factors
8 related to suicide;

9 (3) enhance suicide prevention services and programs throughout the
10 state;

11 (4) develop ^{healthy} communities through comprehensive, ^{am #2}
12 collaborative, ~~community-based~~ ^{and faith-based} approaches;

13 (5) develop and implement a statewide suicide prevention plan;

14 (6) strengthen existing and build new partnerships between public and
15 private entities that will advance suicide prevention efforts in the state.

16 **Sec. 44.29.360. Annual report.** The council shall annually report its findings
17 and recommendations in a report to the governor, the president of the senate, and the
18 speaker of the house of representatives by March 1 of each year.

19 **Sec. 44.29.390. Definition.** In AS 44.29.300 - 44.29.390, "council" means the
20 Statewide Suicide Prevention Council established under AS 44.29.300.

21 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
22 read:

23 **TRANSITIONAL PROVISION.** The Statewide Suicide Prevention Council
24 established under sec. 2 of this Act may begin its work June 1, 2001, or upon appointment of
25 its full membership, whichever is earlier.

26 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

amend #5
4-year sunset
ast/R?
review in finance

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"Hope - the major weapon against the suicide impulse." Karl Menninger

Received via email on 4/23/01

Dear Senator Halford:

I am writing to express my support for SB 198, creating a state suicide prevention council. I think I speak for many people in the Yukon-Koyukuk region when I express my gratitude for your attention to the issue of suicide. Since I became the Director of Yukon Koyukuk Mental Health here in Galena, I have seen how the suicide of one young person devastates hundreds of friends, associates, and loved ones. The people here want badly for the dying to stop. Supporting them with a council and a coordinator is a good idea.

I favor creating a suicide prevention council, but I believe it will be very important to ensure that the areas and people who are losing loved ones to suicide have the greatest say on the council. I worked in Anchorage for years and know first-hand that urban folks have a hard time understanding how things work in the Bush. Although suicide is not just a rural, Native problem, our people out here are disproportionately represented in the suicide statistics. They must be allowed to speak and plan for themselves. I also hope to see a statewide suicide prevention plan and a funded coordinator position to carry out those plans.

Again, I support your bill and hope to see our state move forward in addressing this difficult problem.

Sincerely,
Diana Weber, MS
Director, Yukon Koyukuk Mental Health Program