

SB

157

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
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SENATOR LYDA GREEN
SENATE DISTRICT G

Memo

To: Senator Fred Dyson – Jason Hooley
From: Senator Lyda Green - Claudia Maetoku
Date: 3/31/2003
Re: Request for Hearing

I respectfully request that SB 157 be scheduled for a hearing in the Health, Education and Social Services Committee.

Attached is the following documentation:

- SB 157
- Sponsor statement
- Sectional Analysis

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at #3610.

Thank you.

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SPONSOR STATEMENT SB 157

Senate bill 157 requires the Department of Health and Social Services to use in-state facilities, where available, for the psychiatric treatment of eligible persons. Currently, there are over three hundred and fifty Alaskan children in residential treatment centers out of state. Removal from home state care reduces the involvement of the child's family and the community providers in the child's treatment, thus preventing the improvement of the child's quality of life and care. Out of state treatment is also more expensive and extensive than in state treatment.

The need for in-state psychiatric facilities has been widely recognized for many years. Governor Murkowski has stated, "I find it unconscionable that over 300 of our children are currently receiving inpatient mental health care outside of Alaska because the State has failed to create local treatment options. How can one provide appropriate mental health services to a child who has been taken out of their community and forced to live thousands of miles away from loved ones?" Last session the legislature expressed concern for this problem by passing Senate Concurrent Resolution 21 that requested the Governor to direct the Department of Health and Social Services to work toward providing services and facilities for the treatment of severely emotionally disturbed children in-state. Senate Bill 157 will encourage the implementation of SCR 21 by removing the possibility for out-of state placement when adequate services, according to the child's diagnosis and need, are available in Alaska.

The key provisions are:

- The department will not grant assistance or pay for inpatient psychiatric services for persons under 21 years old in an out-of-state facility, unless adequate service is unavailable in the state.
- The department will evaluate the types of services available in the state and subsequently transfer persons under age 21 to the state when the service becomes available, unless the transfer would be detrimental to the person's health, therapeutic relationship, or clinical need.

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Passage of this legislation will give reassurance to those persons who want to build facilities to fill this need that the State of Alaska wants and needs these services provided in state. This will improve the quality of care and lead to long-term success of the child's treatment, while encouraging the construction of local residential treatment facilities and institutional jobs, without the consequence of diverting jobs out of Alaska

I request your support and passage of Senate Bill 157.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

COPY

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
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State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329


MEMORANDUM

March 27, 2003

SUBJECT: Inpatient psychiatric services for certain persons under 21 years of age; SB 157 (Work Order No. 23-LS0179\D)

TO: Senator Lyda Green
Attn: Claudia Maetoku

FROM: Terri Lauterbach
Legislative Counsel



You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, please note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. Since you have expressed no particular questions about the bill, this memo is brief. If you have specific questions, just let me know.

Section 1. Describes the circumstances under which the Department of Health and Social Services may pay for out-of-state inpatient psychiatric services for a person under age 21 who is covered by the Medicaid program.

Section 2. Makes a technical change to subsection references because of the addition of a new subsection (*l*) in sec. 3.

Section 3. Describes the circumstances under which the Department of Health and Social Services may pay for out-of-state inpatient psychiatric services for a person under age 21 who is in the custody of the DHSS, such as children who have been determined to be children-in-need-of-aid (CINA).

TML:lmb
03-110.lmb

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 03- 031**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 157 AN ACT THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE USE OF IN-STATE RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES, WHERE AVAILABLE, FOR THE PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT OF YOUNG ADULTS.

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for in-state psychiatric treatment facilities within the state of Alaska, especially for the treatment of young adults; and

WHEREAS, over three hundred and fifty Alaskan children are presently sent to out-of-state residential treatment centers; and

WHEREAS, out-of-state treatment is more expensive than comparable in-state treatment; and

WHEREAS, out-of-state treatment is more expensive per child than comparable in-state treatment; and

WHEREAS, out-of-state treatment removes Alaskan children from their families and support network thereby reducing the chances of successful treatment; and

WHEREAS, out-of-state treatment results in a loss of employment opportunities for Alaska and removes scarce financial resources from the Alaska economy.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 157 would require the use of in-state residential treatment centers where available and thereby improve treatment, encourage family members to be closer to their children and improve the state's economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports Senate Bill 157 and the concept of

requiring the use of in-state residential treatment centers where available, for the treatment of young adults.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this - day of -, 2003.

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

SANDRA A. DILLON, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR GREEN

TO: SB 157

1 Page 2, following line 12:

2 Insert a new subsection to read:

3 "(c) When determining whether to authorize admission of a person under 21
4 years of age to a psychiatric hospital facility or residential psychiatric treatment center,
5 either located within the state or outside the state, the department shall include in its
6 consideration the recommendations of a person selected by the Alaska Mental Health
7 Board established by AS 47.30.661 who is selected for this duty by the board on the
8 basis of being knowledgeable about the availability of beds in the state for inpatient
9 psychiatric services for persons under 21 years of age. The board may not select an
10 employee of the department for this duty."
11

12 Page 3, following line 10:

13 Insert a new subsection to read:

14 "(m) When determining whether to authorize admission of a person under 21
15 years of age to a psychiatric hospital facility or residential psychiatric treatment center,
16 either located within the state or outside the state, the department shall include in its
17 consideration the recommendations of a person selected by the Alaska Mental Health
18 Board established by AS 47.30.661 who is selected for this duty by the board on the
19 basis of being knowledgeable about the availability of beds in the state for inpatient
20 psychiatric services for persons under 21 years of age. The board may not select an
21 employee of the department for this duty."