

SB

243

Alaska State Legislature

Interim (May - Dec)
716 W 4th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 269-0144
Fax: (907) 269-0148



Session (Jan - May)
State Capitol, Suite 30
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3822
Fax: (907) 465-3756
Toll free: (800) 770-3822

Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us
http://www.akdemocrats.org

Senator Bettye Davis

CS For Senate Bill No. 243(), 25 LS1351\C (2/19/08)

"An Act relating to the duties and powers of the Alaska Commission on Aging and the Department of Health and Social Services

Sponsor Statement

CSSB 243(), 25-LS1351\C (2/19/08) is a "clean up" bill which mirrors CSHB 279(HES), 25-LS1106\E and amends state law to align state statutes with the current mission and activities of the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) and the Department of Health and Social Services as required in a 2007 Legislative Audit. This bill assigns authority for establishing state policy related to the Older Americans Act federal programs and state programs for Older Alaskans to the Department of Health and Social Services, as the State "Unit on Aging." It also transfers grant authority related to senior service grants, adult day care, and family respite care grants from the Alaska Commission on Aging to the Department of Health and Social Services. The Department has assigned these grant administrative duties to Senior and Disabilities Services.

The Alaska Commission on Aging is responsible for planning, advocacy, and community education activities related to the health and welfare of older Alaskans. It has relationships with state departments and agencies across the state, including the governor's office, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Alaska Housing and Finance Corporation, and non-governmental organizations. The need for senior programs and services is increasing. Per the State plan for Senior Services FY 2008-FY 2011, Alaska already has the highest proportion of baby boomers (32%) in the nation, and its senior population is growing faster than almost any other state. By 2030 seniors 60+ will comprise 17% of the Alaska population, with a doubling of the number of those 65+. CSSB 243() will help clarify state duties and responsibilities in this regard.

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"An Act relating to the duties and powers of the Alaska Commission on Aging and the Department of Health and Social Services

Explanation of CS for SB 243

The only change in the blank CSSB 243() is on page 4 regarding the role and duties of the Executive Director of the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA). It clarifies that the Executive Director shall take the lead role in formulating and submitting to the Department of Health and Social Services a comprehensive statewide plan that identifies the concerns and needs of older Alaskans and presents that plan to the Commission. Prior language indicated that the Executive Director would "assist the department" with formulation of the statewide plan, although the Commission has had that responsibility and performed that function for a number of years. This "clean-up" bill merely aligns the statutes with the current mission and activities of the Commission and the Department.

25-LS1351C
Mischel
2/19/08

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 243()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR DAVIS

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the duties and powers of the Alaska Commission on Aging and the**
2 **Department of Health and Social Services."**

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

4 *** Section 1. AS 47.05.010 is amended to read:**

5 **Sec. 47.05.010. Duties of department.** The Department of Health and Social
6 **Services shall**

7 (1) administer adult public assistance, the Alaska temporary assistance
8 program, and all other assistance programs, and receive and spend money made
9 available to it;

10 (2) adopt regulations necessary for the conduct of its business and for
11 carrying out federal and state laws granting adult public assistance, temporary cash
12 assistance, diversion payments, or self-sufficiency services for needy families under
13 the Alaska temporary assistance program, and other assistance;

14 (3) establish minimum standards for personnel employed by the

1 department and adopt necessary regulations to maintain those standards;

2 (4) require those bonds and undertakings from persons employed by it
3 that, [WHICH] in its judgment, are necessary, and pay the premiums on them;

4 (5) cooperate with the federal government in matters of mutual
5 concern pertaining to adult public assistance, the Alaska temporary assistance
6 program, and other forms of public assistance;

7 (6) make the reports, in the form and containing the information, that
8 the federal government from time to time requires;

9 (7) cooperate with the federal government, its agencies, or
10 instrumentalities in establishing, extending, and strengthening services for the
11 protection and care of homeless, dependent, and neglected children in danger of
12 becoming delinquent, and receive and expend funds available to the department by the
13 federal government, the state, or its political subdivisions for that purpose;

14 (8) cooperate with the federal government in adopting state plans to
15 make the state eligible for federal matching in appropriate categories of assistance, and
16 in all matters of mutual concern, including adoption of the methods of administration
17 that are found by the federal government to be necessary for the efficient operation of
18 welfare programs;

19 (9) adopt regulations, not inconsistent with law, defining need,
20 prescribing the conditions of eligibility for assistance, and establishing standards for
21 determining the amount of assistance that an eligible person is entitled to receive; the
22 amount of the assistance is sufficient when, added to all other income and resources
23 available to an individual, it provides the individual with a reasonable subsistence
24 compatible with health and well-being; an individual who meets the requirements for
25 eligibility for assistance shall be granted the assistance promptly upon application for
26 it;

27 (10) grant to a person claiming or receiving assistance and who is
28 aggrieved because of the department's action or failure to act, reasonable notice and an
29 opportunity for a fair hearing by the department, and the department shall adopt
30 regulations relative to this;

31 (11) enter into reciprocal agreements with other states relative to

1 public assistance, welfare services, and institutional care that are considered advisable;
2 (12) establish the requirements of residence for public assistance,
3 welfare services, and institutional care that are considered advisable, subject to the
4 limitations of other laws of the state, or law or regulation imposed as conditions for
5 federal financial participation;

6 (13) establish the divisions and local offices that are considered
7 necessary or expedient to carry out a duty or authority assigned to it and appoint and
8 employ the assistants and personnel that are necessary to carry on the work of the
9 divisions and offices, and fix the compensation of the assistants or employees, except
10 that a person engaged in business as a retail vendor of general merchandise, or a
11 member of the immediate family of a person who is so engaged, may not serve as an
12 acting, temporary, or permanent local agent of the department, unless the
13 commissioner of health and social services certifies in writing to the governor, with
14 relation to a particular community, that no other qualified person is available in the
15 community to serve as local welfare agent; for the purposes of this paragraph, a
16 "member of the immediate family" includes a spouse, child, parent, brother, sister,
17 parent-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law;

18 (14) provide education and health-related services and referrals
19 designed to reduce the number of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and the number of
20 induced pregnancy terminations in the state;

21 (15) investigate reports of abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of
22 property by certified nurse aides in facilities licensed by the department under
23 AS 47.32;

24 (16) establish state policy relating to and administer federal
25 programs subject to state control as provided under 42 U.S.C. 3001 - 3058ee
26 (Older Americans Act of 1965), as amended, and related federal regulations:

27 (17) administer the older Alaskans service grants under
28 AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 and the adult day care and family respite care grants
29 under AS 47.65.100.

30 * Sec. 2. AS 47.30.036 is amended to read:

31 Sec. 47.30.036. Duties of the board. The board shall

- 1 (1) preserve and protect the trust corpus under AS 37.14.009;
- 2 (2) coordinate with other state agencies involved with programs
- 3 affecting persons in need of mental health services;
- 4 (3) review and consider the recommendations submitted under
- 5 AS 44.29.140(2), AS 47.30.666(6), AS 47.45.240(a)(8) [AS 47.45.240(a)(10)], and
- 6 AS 47.80.090(13);
- 7 (4) adopt bylaws governing its meetings, selection of officers,
- 8 proceedings, and other aspects of board procedure;
- 9 (5) make an annual written report of its activities to the governor and
- 10 the public and notify the legislature that the report is available; and
- 11 (6) fulfill its obligations under AS 47.30.046.

12 * Sec. 3. AS 47.45.230 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 47.45.230. Executive director.** The executive director of the commission

14 shall

15 [(1)] formulate and submit to the department a comprehensive

16 statewide plan that identifies the concerns and needs of older Alaskans and present

17 that plan to the commission [;

18 (2) ADMINISTER, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE

19 COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, FEDERAL

20 PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO STATE CONTROL AS PROVIDED UNDER 42 U.S.C.

21 3001 - 3058ee (OLDER AMERICANS ACT), AS AMENDED; AND

22 (3) ADMINISTER, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE

23 COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE PROGRAMS

24 AS PROVIDED UNDER AS 47.65].

25 * Sec. 4. AS 47.45.240(a) is amended to read:

26 (a) The commission shall

27 (1) subject to review by the department, approve a comprehensive

28 statewide plan that identifies and addresses the concerns and needs of older Alaskans

29 and, with reference to the approved plan, prepare and submit to the governor and

30 legislature an annual analysis and evaluation of the services that are provided to older

31 Alaskans;

1 (2) make recommendations directly to the governor and the legislature
2 with respect to legislation, regulations, and appropriations for programs or services
3 that benefit older Alaskans;

4 (3) encourage the development of municipal commissions serving
5 older Alaskans and community-oriented programs and services for the benefit of older
6 Alaskans;

7 (4) employ an executive director who serves at the pleasure of the
8 commission;

9 (5) help older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and useful lives;

10 (6) request and receive reports and audits from state agencies and local
11 institutions concerned with the conditions and needs of older Alaskans;

12 (7) [WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER OF
13 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, SET POLICY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION
14 OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO STATE CONTROL AS PROVIDED
15 UNDER 42 U.S.C. 3001 - 3058ee (OLDER AMERICANS ACT), AS AMENDED;

16 (8) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER OF
17 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, SET POLICY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION
18 OF STATE PROGRAMS AS PROVIDED UNDER AS 47.65;

19 (9)] give assistance, on request, to the senior housing office in the
20 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation in administration of the senior housing loan
21 program under AS 18.56.710 - 18.56.799 and in the performance of the office's other
22 duties under AS 18.56.700; and

23 (8) [(10)] provide to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, for its
24 review and consideration, recommendations concerning the integrated comprehensive
25 mental health program for persons who are described in (d) of this section and the use
26 of the money in the mental health trust settlement income account in a manner
27 consistent with regulations adopted under AS 47.30.031.

28 * Sec. 5. AS 47.45.240(b) is amended to read:

29 (b) To accomplish its duties, the commission may

30 (1) review, evaluate, and comment upon state programs concerned
31 with the problems and the needs of older Alaskans;

1 (2) collect facts and statistics, and make studies of conditions and
2 problems pertaining to the employment, health, housing, financial security, social
3 welfare, and other concerns that bear upon the well-being of older Alaskans;

4 (3) provide information about public programs that would be of
5 interest or benefit to older Alaskans;

6 (4) appoint special committees, which may include persons who are
7 not members of the commission, to complete necessary studies;

8 (5) promote community education efforts regarding the problems and
9 concerns of older Alaskans;

10 (6) contract for necessary services;

11 (7) consult and cooperate with persons, organizations, and groups
12 interested in or concerned with programs of assistance to older Alaskans;

13 (8) advocate improved programs of benefit to older Alaskans; and

14 (9) recommend [SET] standards for levels of services for older
15 Alaskans for programs administered by the department [COMMISSION; AND

16 (10) ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE
17 ADMINISTRATION OF AS 47.45.200 - 47.45.290 AND TO COMPLY WITH
18 FEDERAL LAW].

19 * Sec. 6. AS 47.45.290 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

20 (3) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Services.

21 * Sec. 7. AS 47.65.010 is amended to read:

22 **Sec. 47.65.010. Older Alaskans service programs.** An amount to carry out
23 the provisions of AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 may be appropriated annually by the
24 legislature. The amount appropriated shall be fully distributed by the department
25 [ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING] to sponsors of older Alaskans service
26 programs in accordance with the provisions of AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050.

27 * Sec. 8. AS 47.65.020 is amended to read:

28 **Sec. 47.65.020. Grants for community service programs.** Not less than 60
29 percent of the amount appropriated by the legislature for older Alaskans service
30 programs under AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 shall be allocated annually by the
31 department [COMMISSION] as community program grants to sponsors of older

1 Alaskans service programs. Payments shall be made on the basis of applications
2 submitted to the department [COMMISSION] by sponsors of community programs.

3 * Sec. 9. AS 47.65.030 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 47.65.030. Pilot project grants.** (a) The balance of the amount
5 appropriated for older Alaskans service programs under AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 not
6 allocated under AS 47.65.020 shall be allocated annually by the department
7 [COMMISSION] as grants to support pilot projects for the benefit of older Alaskans
8 under this section.

9 (b) The department [COMMISSION] shall adopt standards for pilot project
10 grants and, after adoption of the standards as regulations, in accordance with AS 44.62
11 (Administrative Procedure Act), shall apply the standards to determine eligibility of
12 applicants for pilot project grants. In awarding pilot project grants, the department
13 [COMMISSION] shall

14 (1) enter into agreements with the project sponsor to operate one or
15 more of the selected pilot projects consistent with the standards adopted;

16 (2) monitor and evaluate, in a written report, each pilot project; the
17 report must include

18 (A) a description of the project and of the persons served by it;

19 (B) the problems presented by the persons served by the
20 project;

21 (C) a description of the problems most effectively handled by
22 the project; and

23 (D) an estimate of projected cost of operation of the project for
24 the next three succeeding years.

25 * Sec. 10. AS 47.65.040(a) is amended to read:

26 (a) Except as provided in (f) of this section, a sponsor receiving a grant under
27 AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 shall contribute to the total cost of the program or project.
28 The contribution may be in cash or in-kind services. The amount of the sponsor's
29 required contribution is determined by the application of the following formula:
30 average per capita full and true value of all property in the municipality or community
31 in which the project or program takes place divided by the average per capita full and

1 true value of all property in the state, and then multiplied by the contribution
2 percentage to the estimated total program or project cost as determined by the
3 department [COMMISSION] at the time of approval of a grant application. However,
4 the amount of the sponsor's contribution may not amount to more than 10 percent of
5 the total program or project cost.

6 * Sec. 11. AS 47.65.040(c) is amended to read:

7 (c) If an application is submitted for a program or project in a municipality or
8 community for which no average per capita full and true property value determination
9 has been made,

10 (1) if the population of the municipality or community is 750 or more,
11 the department [COMMISSION] shall request the state assessor to compute the
12 average per capita full and true property value of that municipality or community and
13 report it;

14 (2) if the population is less than 750, the department
15 [COMMISSION] may substitute for the average per capita full and true value of
16 property in the municipality or community an amount equal to the average per capita
17 full and true value of property in the smallest municipality for which that amount has
18 been determined by the state assessor.

19 * Sec. 12. AS 47.65.040(e) is amended to read:

20 (e) The grant awarded by the department [COMMISSION] may not exceed
21 the estimated total program or project cost as determined by the department
22 [COMMISSION] less the contribution by the sponsor determined in accordance with
23 this section.

24 * Sec. 13. AS 47.65.040(f) is amended to read:

25 (f) When awarding a grant to support a pilot project under AS 47.65.010 -
26 47.65.050 the department [COMMISSION] may waive all or part of the sponsor
27 contribution required under this section if waiver is in the public interest. The
28 department [COMMISSION] shall adopt regulations establishing standards for
29 granting waivers under this subsection.

30 * Sec. 14. AS 47.65.050 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 47.65.050. Administrative requirements.** (a) Payments received by a

1 sponsor under AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 may be used only to meet costs of services
2 that [WHICH] the department [COMMISSION] has determined directly benefit
3 older Alaskans. A payment may not be made by the department [COMMISSION]
4 under this section unless the department [COMMISSION] determines that the
5 sponsor

6 (1) meets accepted standards of fiscal accountability for public funds;

7 (2) can demonstrate, when requested, the actual cost of services that it
8 is providing for the benefit of older Alaskans; and

9 (3) agrees to make available, upon request, all fiscal information
10 relating to service for which payments are provided under AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050.

11 (b) The department [COMMISSION] may not make payments to a sponsor
12 whose program includes family respite care services or home care services unless the
13 sponsor has agreed to request criminal history record information as permitted by P.L.
14 105-277 and AS 12.62 for the individual who will provide the services within 10
15 business days after the individual is hired to provide the services and review the
16 information within five business days after receiving it.

17 * Sec. 15. AS 47.65.100(a) is amended to read:

18 (a) In addition to administering grants for adult day care programs and family
19 respite care services for older Alaskans under AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050, the
20 department [COMMISSION] may make grants under this section from funds
21 otherwise available to it for adult day care programs and family respite care services
22 for frail older persons and other similarly disabled adults.

23 * Sec. 16. AS 47.65.100(b) is amended to read:

24 (b) In order to fund grants under this section, the department
25 [COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL
26 SERVICES] may seek and enter into contracts or grants with any party, including
27 reimbursable service agreements with other state agencies.

28 * Sec. 17. AS 47.65.100(c) is amended to read:

29 (c) The department [COMMISSION] shall, by regulation, set fees for
30 services provided under this section. The fees must be based on a sliding scale formula
31 that takes into account the client's income.

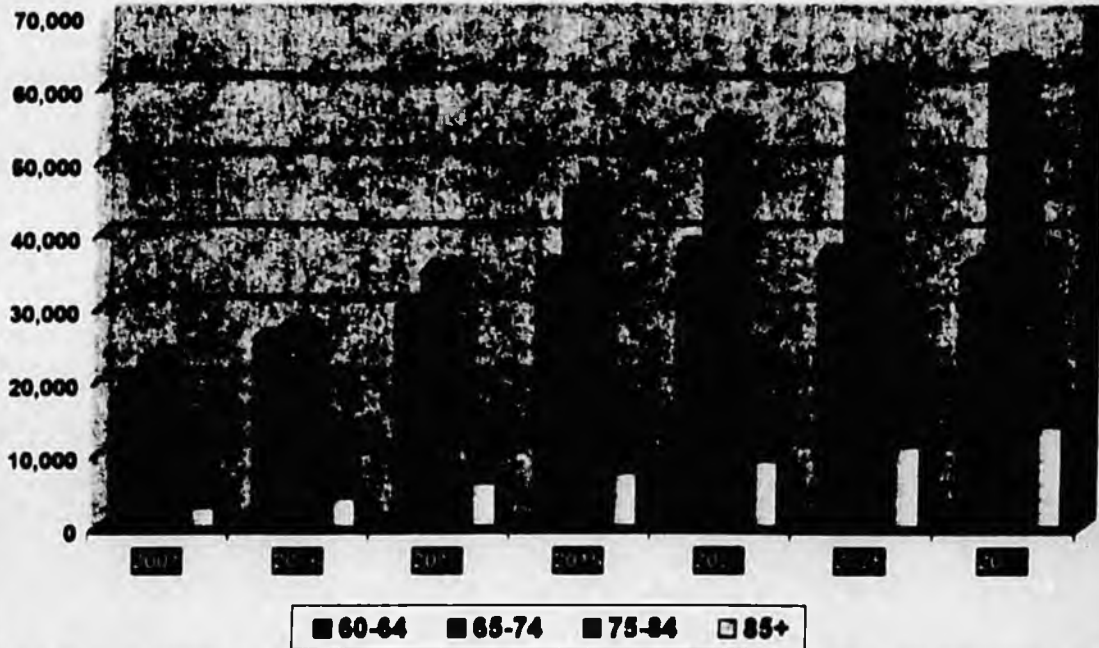
1 * **Sec. 18.** AS 47.65.100(e) is amended to read:

2 (e) The department [COMMISSION] may not award a grant under this
3 section for family respite care services or for adult day care services that include home
4 care services unless the grantee has agreed to request criminal history record
5 information as permitted by P.L. 105-277 and AS 12.62 for the individual who will
6 provide the services within 10 business days after the individual is hired to provide the
7 services and review the information within five business days after receiving it.

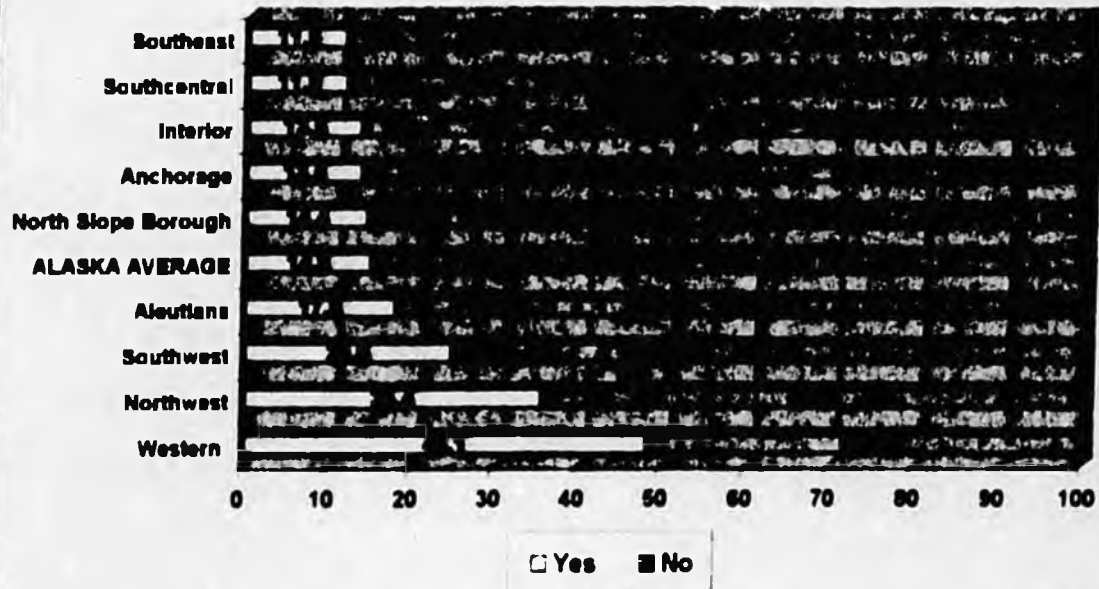
8 * **Sec. 19.** AS 47.65.290(3) is repealed and reenacted to read:

9 (3) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Services;

Older Alaskans by Age Group, 2001 - 2030



Seniors 65+ Receiving SeniorCare Benefits, April 2007

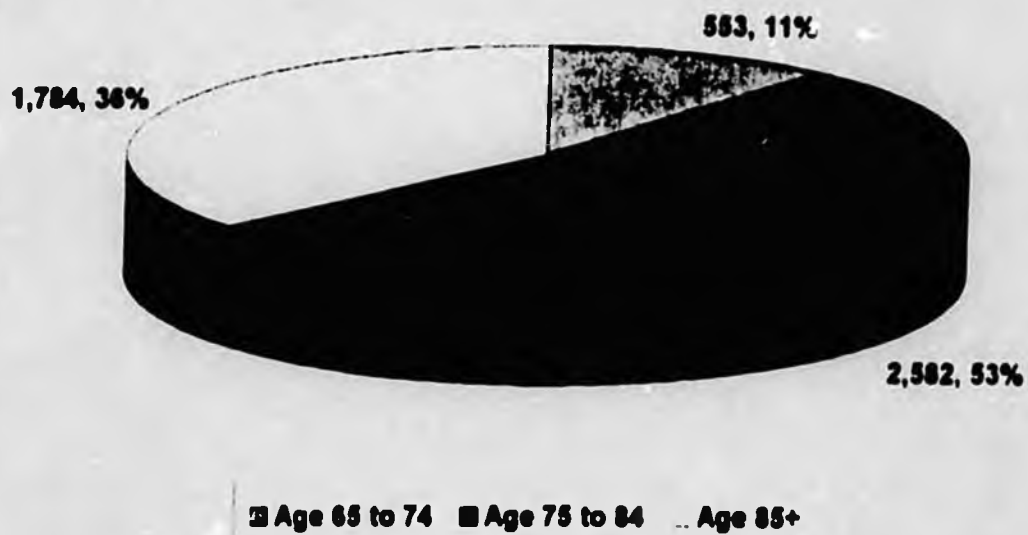


ALL GRAPHS PRODUCED BY ACoA

Urban and Rural Older Alaskans

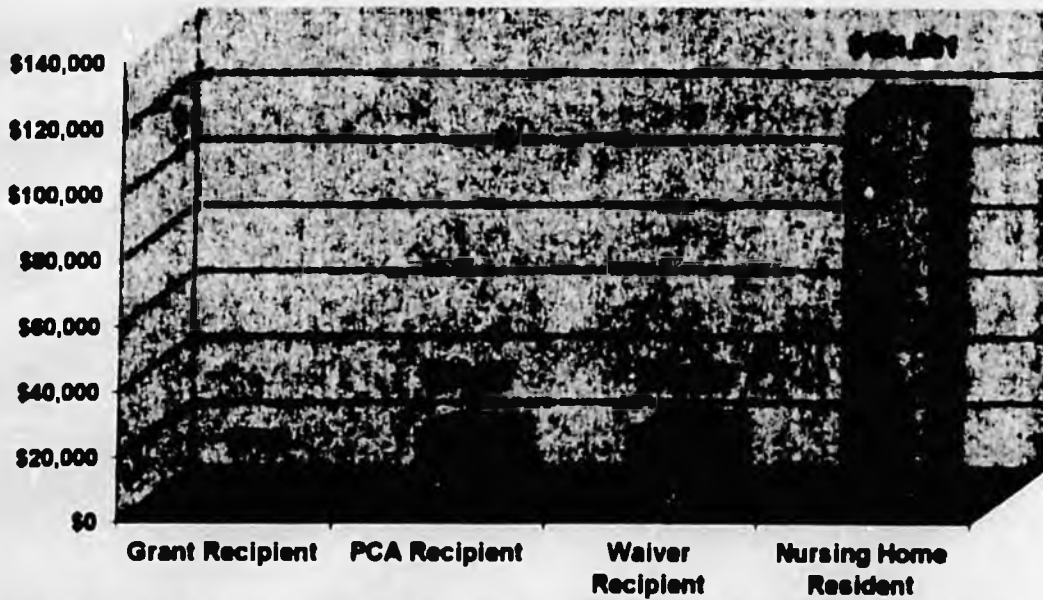


Estimated Number of Alaskans Age 65+ with ADRD

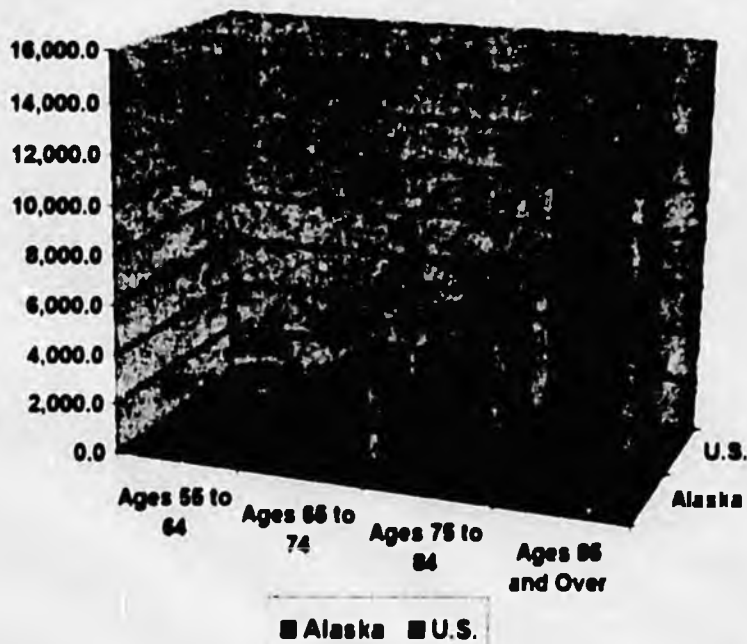


ALL GRAPHS PRODUCED BY ACoA

**Average Annual Costs of Long-Term Care Options, FY 06
(Senior & Disabilities Services)**



Age-Adjusted Death Rates (Per 100,000) by Age Group



ALL GRAPHS PRODUCED BY ACoA

ALASKA

state plan
senior services
FY 2008 - FY 2011



**State of Alaska
Department of Health & Social Services**

**ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
State Plan for Senior Services**

**FY 2008 – FY 2011
(July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2011)**

**Sarah Palin, Governor
State of Alaska**

**Karleen K. Jackson, Ph.D., Commissioner
Alaska Department of Health & Social Services**





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Assistant Secretary
Administration on Aging

Washington D.C. 20201

JUN 26 2007

The Honorable Sarah Palin
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin:

It is my pleasure to inform you that the four-year Alaska State Plan for Senior Services beginning July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2011 is approved. It is a comprehensive document that integrates Older Americans Act requirements with the extensive, collaborative plans produced by the inter-agency State Plan Advisory Committee.

I am particularly pleased by the efforts of the Alaska Commission on Aging in involving seniors, the public and providers as well as state agencies in the development and public review of the plan. This proactive strategy will enhance Alaska's continuing development of its service delivery system with an emphasis on choices for older individuals.

The Regional Office staff of the U.S. Administration on Aging in Seattle and I look forward to working with you in the implementation of the State Plan. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. I appreciate your dedication and commitment toward improving the lives of older persons in Alaska.

Sincerely


Josefina G. Carbonell
Assistant Secretary for Aging

**ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
STATE PLAN FOR SENIOR SERVICES
APPROVAL**


The Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS) hereby submits the Alaska State Plan for Senior Services for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2011 (State fiscal years 2008 through 2011). Governor Sarah Palin has designated the Department of Health & Social Services as Alaska's sole state agency on aging. The Alaska Commission on Aging within DHSS has been authorized by Alaska Statute [(AS 47.45.240(a)(1))] to develop the state plan on aging in accordance with the provisions of the Older Americans Act and its amendments. The plan, as submitted, documents the needs of older Alaskans and establishes direction for the coordination of all State activities related to seniors, with an emphasis on those efforts related to the Older Americans Act, including the development of a comprehensive and coordinated system for the delivery of supportive services.

The Plan, as submitted, has been developed in accordance with all federal statutory and regulatory requirements.

The State Plan for Senior Services is hereby approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Health & Social Services, as the Governor's designee, and constitutes authorization to proceed with activities under the Plan upon approval by the Assistant Secretary for Aging.

I hereby approve this State Plan and am pleased to present it to Alaskans.

Date



Karleen K. Jackson, Ph.D., Commissioner
Alaska Department of Health & Social Services


**ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
STATE PLAN FOR SENIOR SERVICES
APPROVAL**

The State Plan for Senior Services is hereby approved by the Alaska Commission on Aging, as the agency authorized by the Commissioner of the Department of Health & Social Services and by Alaska Statute [(AS 17.45.240(a)(1))] to develop the state plan on aging in accordance with the provisions of the Older Americans Act and its amendments.

Frank Appel, Chair
Michael Black, Designee, Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Lillian Boen-Kasnick
Patricia Brunson
Sharon Howerton-Clark
Betty Keegan
Banarsi Lal
Rod Moline, Designee, Department of Health & Social Services
Iver Malutin
Paula Pawlowski
Edward Zastrow

Date

3/07


Frank Appel, Chair
Alaska Commission on Aging

**Alaska's State Plan for Senior Services,
FY 2008 – FY 2011
May 1, 2007**

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Executive Summary

As the state with the highest proportion of baby boomers (32%), Alaska will find its senior population growing faster than almost any other state as that group reaches its senior years. While in the past many Alaskans chose to leave the state after retirement, more and more retirees now prefer to remain here. By 2030, the proportion of seniors 65+ will double to comprise 13% of the Alaska population, with those age 60+ making up 17%. The oldest group of seniors, those age 85+, is expected to almost triple during the next 25 years, vastly increasing the number of Alaskans living with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders (ADRD).

While census data do not show high levels of poverty among Alaska seniors, the census does not consider differences in cost of living among different areas of the country. The most financially vulnerable groups of seniors typically include widowed and divorced women, Alaska Natives and other racial minorities, high-school dropouts, people not eligible for Social Security benefits (perhaps due to a subsistence lifestyle), those with a limited work history, and the oldest seniors (whose fixed incomes have taken a beating from inflation over the years).

Surprisingly to some who may view seniors as a liability to the state, retired Alaskans constitute one of the largest and healthiest sectors of Alaska's economy. In 2004, according to the University of Alaska Institute for Social and Economic Research, retired Alaskans age 60 and older contributed almost \$1.5 billion to the state's economy, primarily from retirement income and health care spending. This was roughly ten times the total cost of State programs targeting seniors. Senior spending provides a large economic multiplier effect in local communities, and many other advantages, including a high volume of local spending, a diverse job mix, a low level of seasonality, stability from year to year (not dependent on fluctuating world market conditions), an environmentally benign footprint, compatibility with other industries, non-enclave location (not concentrated in remote rural areas), and economies of scale which reduce costs for all Alaskans, particularly in health care services.

Alaskan seniors have a lower age-adjusted death rate than U.S. seniors overall. While more older Alaskans smoke, drink heavily, and binge drink, as a group they are more likely to eat plenty of fruits and vegetables, engage in physical activity, and describe themselves as being in good health. Falls are the leading cause of non-fatal injuries requiring hospitalization for every age group in Alaska, but serious injuries from falls increase dramatically in the senior population. Sadly, suicide rates among older Alaskans are considerably higher than national averages, though suicide does not constitute a leading cause of death here. Top causes of death in the older age groups in Alaska include cancer, heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, and Alzheimer's disease.¹

Challenges on the horizon for older Alaskans include income insecurity, the

¹ Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics

need for more reliable access to health care and long-term care supports, a looming physician shortage, absence of geriatric education among providers, a shortage of a sufficient senior services and health care services workforce to meet future needs, the need for emergency preparedness for a wide range of potential disasters, and soaring energy and utility costs.

The State of Alaska provides a wide range of programs and services addressed to seniors, spanning multiple divisions and departments. Funds from the Older Americans Act as well as State general funds and resources from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and other federal, State, and non-governmental sources help to pay for these services, many of which are provided through grant agreements with local non-profit service agencies. While the services and benefits available to Alaska seniors are impressive, increasing strain on the state's services system from the burgeoning senior population is inevitable, and demands advance planning (in particular the creation of a long-term care strategic plan) as well as a coordinated advocacy effort to obtain increased funding for senior needs.

This state plan focuses on six overall goals, with their respective objectives and recommended strategies. The goals cover keeping seniors healthy, active, and involved in their communities; ensuring access to an integrated array of health and social supports along the continuum of care; supporting families in their efforts to care for loved ones at home and in the community; providing a range of adequate, accessible, secure and affordable housing options for seniors; supporting a stable senior services and health care workforce as well as a range of attractive employment opportunities for seniors; and ensuring that older Alaskans are safe from catastrophic events and protected from personal exploitation, neglect, and abuse. For each year of the plan's coverage, an annual implementation plan will be created by all interested senior organizations, with each committing to work on specific strategies outlined in the plan.

While similar weighting factors (total number of seniors, seniors age 80+, minority seniors, poverty-level seniors, and rural seniors) have been used in the funding framework for this state plan as in the previous (FY 2003 – FY 2007) plan, seniors' demographic patterns have shifted substantially since the 2000 census. While no region of the state is seeing an actual decrease in its number of seniors, some regions are growing at a much faster rate than others. Railbelt census areas (those along the central rail corridor of the state, especially the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Anchorage, and Fairbanks North Star Borough) are experiencing an influx of seniors from out-of-state and from more rural, remote regions of Alaska. Older Alaskans may move to more populated areas to obtain services or to be closer to relatives. In order to avoid the shock of a dramatic fund shift for some regions in the first year of this plan and to give those regions slated for a loss of funding the opportunity to seek other resources, the State will continue to use the FY 2003 – FY 2007 funding allotments during FY 2008 and FY 2009; in FY 2010, allocations will reflect 50% of the change dictated by the new funding framework, and by FY 2011 100% of the fund shifts will be implemented.

The coming quarter-century will usher in a dramatic period of growing need for senior services in Alaska. Nevertheless, seniors' many contributions to the state and its economy are recognized, and the State considers it a privilege to plan for and provide the services needed to preserve their quality of life. Alaska's State Plan for Senior Services, FY 2008 – FY 2011 presents a wide-ranging, inclusive vision to guide the effort to provide those services in a respectful manner that upholds the dignity and independence of older Alaskans.

FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SB 243
 () Publish Date: _____
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 RDU: Senior and Disabilities Svcs
 Component: Senior/Disabilities Svcs Admin

ID(File name) SB243-DHSS-SDSA-1-24-2008
 Title: COMMISSION ON AGING
 Sponsor: DAVIS
 Requester: SENATE HES

Component No. 2663

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information					
	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
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	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)							

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)							
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)							
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill has zero fiscal impact. It seeks to bring into alignment grant duties and responsibilities that were previously given to DHSS when the Commission on Aging and Division of Senior Services became part of this department. Any fiscal impact from these changes has already been realized and assimilated into the grants process.

Prepared by: Rod Moline, Division Director
 Division: Senior and Disabilities Services
 Approved by: Karleen Jackson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone 465-3819
 Date/Time 01/23/2008
 Date 01/24/2008

LEGAL SERVICES

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

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

February 25, 2008

SUBJECT: CSSB 243(), Sectional Summary
(Work Order No. 25-LS1351\C)

TO: Senator Bettye Davis
Attn: Tom Obermeyer

FROM: Jean M. Mischel
Legislative Counsel

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

As a preliminary matter, 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. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Adds duties for the Department of Health and Social Services that include establishing policy for Older Alaskans and administering grants for Older Alaskans, adult day care, and family respite care.

Section 2. Adds a duty to the Mental Health Trust Authority to set policy for Older Alaskans.

Section 3. Changes the duties of the executive director for the Alaska Commission on Aging to formulate for the department a statewide plan for Older Alaskans and deletes the duties pertaining to administering related federal grants and programs.

Section 4. Makes the Alaska Commission on Aging statewide plan subject to the review of the department and deletes policy and program responsibilities of the commission.

Section 5. Limits the authority of the Alaska Commission on Aging to recommending standards of services provided to Older Alaskans that are administered by the department and deletes rulemaking authority of the commission.

Section 6. Defines "department" to be the Department of Health and Social Services.

Section 7. Replaces the commission's authority for distribution of appropriations for services to Older Alaskans with the department.

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Section 16. Replaces the commission's authority to enter into contract and grant agreements with the department.

Section 17. Replaces the commission's authority to set fees for adult day care and family respite services with the department.

Section 18. Replaces the commission's authority to award grants for family respite care and adult day care services with the department.

Section 19. Defines "department" to be the Department of Health and Social Services.

February 25, 2008

Representative Doll
Senator Davis
Capitol Building
Juneau Alaska 99801

Greetings,

I would like to thank you both for sponsoring bills to increase the access to support services for people experiencing brain damage caused by fetal alcohol spectrum. This bill will remove one of the major barriers to effective diagnosis, by increasing the knowledge of one of the key indicators. I believe this bill still maintains the relationships between medical provider and parents.

I worked closely for a number of years with a young person experiencing FASD. I witnessed the frustration of fellow staff members and community members, and the negative attitudes toward this individual.

Once it was determined that the person's behaviors were a result of FASD, there was a dramatic change in treatment of this individual. People working with her experienced much less frustration, and were much more effective in working with her. This resulted in a higher quality of life, work, and relationships for the individual.

This bill is a win-win for people with FASD, the people that care for them, and the State of Alaska in general. Thank you for sponsoring this legislation.

Joy Lyon
570 Seater
Juneau AK 99801



SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral

DATE: 1/19/08

FURTHER: Finance

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

DATE TURNED
 IN TO OFFICE: 2/26/08

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 243

SB 243 COMMISSION ON AGING

"An Act relating to the duties and powers of the Alaska Commission on Aging and the Department of Health and Social Services."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS SB 243 (HES)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:
<input type="checkbox"/> Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/> New Title
<hr/>
HOUSE BILL:
<input type="checkbox"/> Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/> New Title w/ SCR # _____

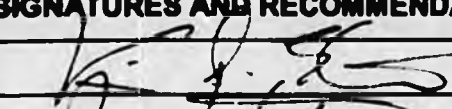
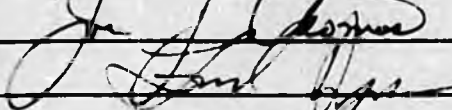
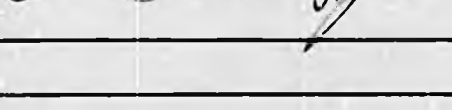
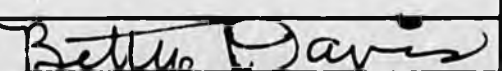
NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
H.S.S.	1/24/08			✓	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Elton	✓			
	Thomas	✓			
				✓	
CHAIR: 	DAVIS	✓			



February 25, 2008

The Honorable Bettye Davis, Chair
Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 30
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: SB 243 (Davis) – Support

Dear Chair Davis,

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee to support SB 243 which you authored.

SB 243 is basically a "clean up" bill which brings the Alaska Commission on Aging into compliance with changes that have been in place for several years that deal with Commission responsibilities and those of Senior and Disability Services.

SB 243 incorporates the recommendations of the Legislative Auditor.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on SB 243.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Darlin".

Marie Darlin, Coordinator
AARP Capital City Task Force
415 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 506
Juneau, AK 99801
586-3637 (voice)
463-3580 (fax)

CC: Senator Joe Thomas
Senator John Cowdery
Senator Fred Dyson
Senator Kim Elton

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
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STATE OF ALASKA

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Attn: Tom Obermeyer

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Legislative Counsel

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