

SB

37

<TARGET><BILL>SB 37</BILL><SUBJECT>SB
37</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA28</COMM></TARGET>



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Anna Fairclough — Senate District M

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 37

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

In 2001 the Alaska State Legislature created the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council. The Council is made up of 17 members: two appointed by the president of the senate, two appointed by the speaker of the house, and 13 members appointed by the governor.

The duties of the Council are outlined in statute 44.29.350:

- Improve health and wellness throughout the state by reducing suicide and its effects on individuals, families and communities;
- Broaden Alaskans' awareness of suicide and the role of risk and protective factors in suicide;
- Enhance Alaska's suicide prevention services and programs;
- Develop healthy communities through comprehensive, collaborative, community-based and faith-based approaches implemented at the community level and supported by regional, state, and federal resources;
- Develop and implement a statewide suicide prevention plan; and
- Strengthen existing and build new partnerships between public and private entities that will advance suicide prevention efforts in the state.

Alaska has the highest rate of suicide per capita in the country. The Council has designed a state plan of action for preventing suicide. This plan, *Casting the Net Upstream*, promotes wellness to prevent suicide in Alaska.

I appreciate your support and consideration of this legislation.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 37 (A)
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB037-DHSS-SPC-2-4-13
Title: EXTEND SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNCIL
Sponsor: FAIRCLOUGH
Requester: Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

Department: Department of Health and Social Services
Appropriation: Behavioral Health
Allocation: Suicide Prevention Council
OMB Component Number: 2651

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2014 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services		92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4
Travel		38.7	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.7	53.7
Services		51.3	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0
Commodities		3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits		415.0	415.0	415.0	415.0	415.0	415.0	415.0
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	600.9	644.6	644.6	644.6	644.6	644.6	644.6

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1037 GF/MH		600.9	644.6	644.6	644.6	644.6	644.6	644.6
Total	0.0	600.9	644.6	644.6	644.6	644.6	644.6	644.6

Positions

Full-time		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: Melissa Stone, Director
Division: Behavioral Health
Approved By: Sarah Woods, Deputy Director
Finance & Management Services

Phone: (907)269-3410
Date: 02/04/2013 11:00 AM
Date: 02/04/13

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 037

Analysis

The bill extends the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council for six years. This permits the Council to continue to coordinate and support statewide suicide prevention efforts under the state plan, *Casting the Net Upstream: Promoting Wellness to Prevent Suicide*.

Assumptions –

The Governor's FY2014 Budget includes costs associated with current operations. In the out-years from FY2015 through FY2019, travel is increased to accommodate full attendance of quarterly meetings by all voting members and the majority of legislative members. Services are increased to reflect increased facility, printing/copying and postage expenses (due to expanded sharing of resources, materials, and prevention information) and an additional \$20,000 to allow the Council to partner with organizations on special projects. It would also allow the Council to pool resources with Alaska Native Heal Consortium, the University of Alaska and others to do research projects that cannot be done with existing staff.

Program Summary –

The Statewide Suicide Prevention Council consists of seventeen governor appointed members from the State Division of Behavioral Health, Alaska State Representatives and Senators, board members from the Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Alaska Federation of Natives, clergy, general public, student and youth representatives, and the military. The Council advises the governor and legislature on issues relating to suicide. In collaboration with communities, faith-based organizations, and public-private entities, the Council works to improve the health and wellness of Alaskans by reducing suicide and its effect on individuals and communities.

The Council's budget supports the following:

FY2014 Administrative Costs: \$600.9

Positions/Personal Services – \$92.4

- 1.0 FTE Project Assistant, PCN 06-0529, Range 16 (\$55.2 salary plus \$37.2 benefits)

Other Expenditures –

- Travel for the group to meet quarterly in order to better understand and comprehend the complexities of suicide in Alaska and to share this information with other Alaskans: \$38.7
- Leased office space, printing/copying for resource materials and prevention information, teleconferencing and video conferencing, Human Resource, telecommunication, and mail service costs allocated from the Department: \$51.3
- Meeting and business supplies: \$3.5
- School Based Suicide Prevention Grants: \$415.0

FY2015 – FY2019 Administrative Costs: \$644.6

Positions/Personal Services – \$92.4

- 1.0 FTE Project Assistant, PCN 06-0529, Range 16 (\$55.2 salary plus \$37.2 benefits) and

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 037

Analysis Continued

Other Expenditures –

- Travel for the group to meet quarterly in order to better understand and comprehend the complexities of suicide in Alaska and to share this information with other Alaskans: \$57.3
- Leased office space, printing/copying for resource materials and prevention information, teleconferencing and video conferencing, Human Resource, telecommunication, and mail service costs allocated from the Department: \$60.0
- Outreach and research contracts: \$20.0
- Meeting and business supplies: \$3.5
- School Based Suicide Prevention Grants: \$415.0



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of
Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

P.O. Box 110693
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0693
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February 21, 2013

The Honorable Pete Kelly, Co-Chair
The Honorable Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska Capitol, Rooms 516 & 518
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Support for SB 37, Extension of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council

Dear Senator Kelly & Senator Meyer:

The Alaska Commission on Aging encourages support for SB 37, a bill to extend the sunset date for the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council sponsored by Senator Fairclough and co-sponsored by Senators Dyson, Ellis, Gardner and French.

Suicide affects all Alaskans across the life span and cuts across economic, social and ethnic boundaries. Alaska continues to have one of the highest suicide rates in the nation with young Native men being most at risk. Suicide rates are also higher for older Alaskans (age 65+) than their U.S. senior counterparts. Suicide attempts are the third highest cause of nonfatal hospitalized injuries for Alaskans age 55 and older.

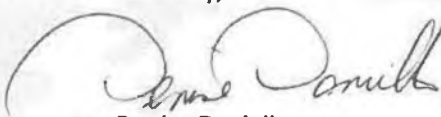
The Statewide Suicide Prevention Council was created in 2001 to advise the Legislature and the Governor on ways to improve health and wellness for Alaskans by reducing suicide, building partnerships to enhance suicide prevention efforts, developing and implementing a statewide suicide prevention plan, among other important activities. The Council has been proactive in engaging partners and making information and training available to communities and partners statewide in suicide prevention coordinating with community coalitions, tribal organizations, health care providers, communities of faith and other groups so that access to suicide prevention awareness materials and other resources can be used and shared.

The Alaska Commission on Aging respectfully asks for your support of SB 37. Suicide devastates families and communities. The Statewide Suicide Prevention Council is a valuable part of Alaska's efforts to reduce and prevent suicide. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director (465-4879), should you have any questions regarding our position.

Sincerely,


Paula Pawlowski
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,


Denise Daniello
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Senator Fairclough, Vice Chair & Bill Sponsor Senator Olson
Senator Dunleavy Senator Hoffman
Senator Bishop



February 21, 2013

The Honorable Anna Fairclough
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Fairclough,

On behalf of the Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition, I am writing in support of the continuation of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council.

The Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition, established in 2008, is an active coalition of mental health/social service providers, educators, survivors, faith-based community, law enforcement, veteran's advocates, concerned citizens, community groups, and other dedicated community members working together to maintain community wide suicide awareness and prevention in Juneau.

Our Coalition is committed to reducing the loss and suffering caused by suicide and suicidal behavior in Juneau. The Coalition offers information and education about issues relating to suicide, as well as support to families and community members who have lost loved ones to suicide. It is our hope that through our efforts we can lessen the incidence of suicide and the stigma associated with suicide loss.

Year after year suicide continues to be a significant issue in our state, and now the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council's work and presence is more important and relevant than ever. Alaska's suicide rates continue to be twice as high as the national average. With Alaska's population of smaller, tight knit communities these losses have a tremendous effect on all of us.

In January 2010 the Statewide Council brought various entities and stakeholders together to discuss and share suicide prevention efforts across the state. The Council published a comprehensive statewide suicide prevention plan, *Casting The Net Upstream: Promoting Wellness to Prevent Suicide*, to promote healthy Alaskan's and strengthen the ties across our state.

Because of the distance between communities within our state, communication and collaboration on a statewide level has proven difficult. The presence of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council has helped to bridge the gaps between these communities so that we can share ideas and work together as one state in a coordinated and consistent fashion to prevent suicides throughout Alaska. Please extend the Council's statutory authority, since they continue to play a vital role in our state.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter Majoros". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Walter Majoros
Co-Chair



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Health & Social Services

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
& SPECIAL EDUCATION
Teresa Holt, Executive Director

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February 27, 2013

Senator Anna Fairclough
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building, Room 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB 37 Extending the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council

Dear Senator Fairclough,

Thank you for sponsoring SB 37, which would extend the termination date of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council (SSPC) until 2019.

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the Council) advocates for change that improves the lives of individuals with disabilities. One of the roles of the Council is to serve as Alaska's State Council on Developmental Disabilities to ensure individuals with developmental disabilities receive the supports and services they need.

The Council recognizes that suicide has been a tragic issue for Alaskans for many years and supports SB 37, which will extend the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council. The SSPC works with the state to find ways to improve Alaskan's health and wellness, educate the public about suicide and its risk factors in an effort to reduce the number of suicides in our state. The SSPC hosted a suicide prevention summit, established regional suicide prevention teams, works with the Department of Education and Early Development to assist school districts in providing evidenced based prevention programs in local schools.

The Council commends this effort to prevent suicide in Alaska. The Council recognizes that the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council is a valuable part of Alaska's efforts to reduce and prevent suicide. The Council strongly supports SB 37 extending the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Gebhart".

Eric Gebhart
Council Chair

Creating Change That Improves the Lives of People with Disabilities



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Anna Fairclough — Senate District M

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2013

TO: Representative Bob Lynn
Chair, House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Senator Anna Fairclough *Anna*

RE: Senate Bill 37 Hearing Request

I am requesting a hearing as soon as your committee schedule will permit for Senate Bill 37 relating to the extension of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council.

This council is set to sunset June 30, 2013, for this reason it is critical this legislation be passed this legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact Laura Pierre on my staff with any questions at 465-4695.