

CHAPTER 88

AN ACT

[H. B. 53]

Redefining the duties of the Welfare Department, and amending
Section 51-1-3 ACLA 1949.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska:

Section 1. That Sec. 51-1-3 ACLA 1949 is hereby
amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51-1-3. Duties of Welfare Department.
The Welfare Department is empowered, directed
and authorized:

Welfare
Department
duties.

(a) to administer old-age assistance, aid to
dependent children, aid to the blind, and all
other assistance programs for which funds may
hereafter become available, and to receive and
expend all funds made available to the Depart-
ment by the Federal or Territorial government;

Adopt rules
and
regulations.

(b) to adopt rules and regulations neces-
sary for the conduct of its business and for
carrying out the provisions of all Federal and
Territorial laws granting old-age assistance, aid
to dependent children, aid to blind persons and
other assistance;

Personnel
standards.

(c) to establish minimum standards for
personnel employed by the Welfare Department
and make necessary rules and regulations to
maintain such standards;

Bonds.

(d) to require such bonds and undertakings
from persons employed by it as shall in its
judgment be necessary and to pay the premiums
thereon;

(e) to cooperate with the Federal Government in matters of mutual concern pertaining to old-age assistance, aid to dependent children, blind persons and such other forms of public assistance as may come within the purview of this Act;

(f) to make such reports, in such form and containing such information, as the Federal Government may from time to time require;

Reports.

(g) to cooperate with the Federal Government, its agencies or instrumentalities in establishing, extending and strengthening services for the protection and care of homeless, dependent and neglected children in danger of becoming delinquent, and to receive and expend all funds made available to the Department by the Federal Government, the Territory or its political subdivisions for such purpose;

Federal cooperation.

(h) to cooperate with the Federal Government in adopting Territorial plans which would make the Territory eligible for Federal matching in appropriate categories of assistance, and in all matters of mutual concern, including adoption of such methods of administration as may be found by the Federal Government to be necessary for the efficient operation of welfare programs;

Approval by Federal Agencies

(i) to promulgate rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, defining need, prescribing the conditions of eligibility for assistance, and establishing standards for determining the amount of assistance which any eligible person shall receive under the provisions of this Act. The amount of such

Promulgation of rules.

assistance shall be sufficient when added to all other income and resources found to be available to an individual to provide such individual with a reasonable subsistence compatible with health and well-being. Any individual who meets the requirements for eligibility for assistance provided by this Act, and the rules and regulations established thereunder, shall be granted such assistance promptly upon application therefor;

Hearings.

(j) to grant to any person claiming or receiving assistance and who is aggrieved because of the department's action or failure to act, reasonable notice and an opportunity for a fair hearing by the department, and the department shall establish rules and regulations relative thereto;

Reciprocal agreements.

(k) to enter into reciprocal agreements with other States relative to public assistance, welfare services, and institutional care, as may be deemed advisable;

Residence requirements.

(l) to establish such requirements of residence for public assistance, welfare services and institutional care as may be deemed advisable, subject to the limitations of any other law of this Territory, or law or regulation imposed as conditions for Federal financial participation;

Establish offices.

(m) to establish such divisions and local offices as may be necessary or deemed expedient to carry out any duty or authority assigned to it and to appoint and employ such assistants and personnel as may be necessary to carry on the work of such divisions and offices, and to fix the compensation of such assistants or employees.

(n) Confidential character of public-assistance records. The rule-making power of the Department shall include the power to establish and enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing the custody, use, and preservation of the records, papers, files, and communications of the Department. Wherever, under provisions of law, names and addresses of recipients of public assistance are furnished to or held by any other agency or department of government such agency or department of government shall be required to adopt regulations necessary to prevent the publication of lists thereof or their use for purposes not directly connected with the administration of public assistance.

Records to
be
confidential.

(o) Misuse of public-assistance lists and records. It shall be unlawful, except for purposes directly connected with the administration of general assistance, old-age assistance, aid to the blind, or aid to dependent children, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department, for any person or persons to solicit, disclose, receive, make use of, or to authorize, knowingly permit, participate in, or acquiesce in the use of, any list of or names of, or any information concerning, persons applying for or receiving such assistance directly or indirectly derived from the records, papers, files, or communications of the Department or subdivisions or agencies thereof, or acquired in the course of the performance of official duties.

Misuse of
records.

Approved March 23, 1951.