



LAWS OF ALASKA

1972

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Chapter No.

189

AN ACT

Relating to the Office of Child Advocacy; and providing for an effective date.

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

* Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

(1) there is a need to build public response to the problems confronting Alaska's population, specifically young people, so that maximum community and human resources are mobilized to provide services for youth and to assure them their full rights as human beings;

(2) there exists a demand within the state for development opportunities for children, and lay and expert opinions hold that the availability of child development experience can be a significant and positive factor in the development of adult personality, talent and character;

(3) too little is known about the optimum type and content of this experience and in fact realizes that there may be no optimum, but rather a need for a variety of programs tailored to fit the needs of children from diverse backgrounds;

(4) because Alaska is geographically remote from major United States population centers where much existing research is in process in the field of child development, it is vital that Alaska provide various diverse models for child development and that there needs to be established a clearinghouse for the exchange of information and ideas, and periodic state conferences on child development, and that progress be made toward periodic evaluation of model projects in this field; and

(5) availability of child development programs will permit more parents to participate in the economic life of the

community, will thus make available new talent in our economic life, and will relieve some households from a cycle of economic dependency upon government.

* Sec. 2. AS 47 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

CHAPTER 50. OFFICE OF CHILD ADVOCACY.

Sec. 47.50.010. OFFICE OF CHILD ADVOCACY. There is created in the Office of the Governor the Office of Child Advocacy to act as a coordinating body for services for children from prenatal to age 18. The Office of Child Advocacy is administered by a director appointed by the board of directors with the approval of the governor. Staff may be employed in accordance with appropriate budgets.

Sec. 47.50.020. BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE OFFICE OF CHILD ADVOCACY. There is created a board of directors for the Office of Child Advocacy. The board consists of the Alaska State Council on the Coordination of Community Child Care plus four members not more than 18 years of age appointed by the governor for a term of two years each, or until the youthful member attains the age of 19 years.

Sec. 47.50.030. POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD AND DIRECTOR. (a) The board of directors for the Office of Child Advocacy shall determine policy and establish program priorities, and shall serve as a child advocacy agency in the state. The board shall

(1) coordinate public and private programs and priorities which affect children and child development;

(2) develop guidelines to improve children and child development services throughout the state, including the development of program standards, training for para-professionals and professional personnel and monitoring and evaluation procedures;

(3) assist local communities in the initiation of child development programs including information about pertinent legislation and funding and consultant resources;

(4) identify, coordinate and develop a comprehensive plan for the use of public and private resources, including the services of volunteers;

(5) provide leadership in recommending legislative change which affects the provision of children and child development services; review existing state policies as they relate to, and affect the legal status and well-being of children;

(6) develop innovative approaches for involving parent-consumers on both the state and local level in program planning and policy making.

(b) The director shall carry out the policies and programs set out by the board of directors.

Sec. 47.50.040. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES. Members of the board of directors for the Office of Child Advocacy

receive no salary but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized by law for other boards and commissions.

Sec. 47.50.050. DEPARTMENTS TO ASSIST OFFICE OF CHILD ADVOCACY. The Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and all other departments and agencies of the state which have programs or services pertaining to children shall cooperate with the Office of Child Advocacy and shall furnish technical assistance and personnel, if available, upon request.

* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1972.