



LAWS OF ALASKA

1977

Source

SB 54

Chapter No.

36

AN ACT

Relating to adoption assistance for hard-to-place children in foster homes; and providing for an effective date.

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

* Section 1. AS 20.15.080(b)(6) is amended to read:

(6) that the petitioner has facilities and resources, including those available under a hard-to-place child subsidy agreement, suitable to provide for the nurture and care of the minor to be adopted, and that it is the desire of the petitioner to establish the relationship of parent and child with the person to be adopted;

* Sec. 2. AS 20.15.190 is amended to read:

Sec. 20.15.190. ADOPTION ASSISTANCE. A hard-to-place child in the permanent custody of the department in a foster home for not less than one year may not be denied the opportunity for a permanent home if the achievement of this depends on continued subsidy by the state.

* Sec. 3. AS 20.15.200 is amended to read:

Sec. 20.15.200. INVESTIGATION. Persons who are caring for a hard-to-place child on a foster parent basis and who have applied to adopt the hard-to-place child and to receive payments for the care and support of the hard-to-place child shall be evaluated as to their suitability as adoptive parents by means of an adoptive home study. This home study shall be made by the commissioner's adoption staff or on his behalf by an authorized agency which provides adoption services.

* Sec. 4. AS 20.15.210 is amended to read:

Sec. 20.15.210. AMOUNT AND DURATION OF SUBSIDY PAYMENTS. The monthly payment and the length of time for which a subsidy for a hard-to-place child is granted are left to the discretion of the commissioner and may vary from a small monthly sum to an amount not exceeding the existing rate for foster care until the child reaches the age of majority, if the need continues to exist. Subsidies shall be paid from the same public funds and in the same manner as foster care payments.

* Sec. 5. AS 20.15.240(7) is repealed and re-enacted to read:

(7) "hard-to-place child" means a minor who is not likely to be adopted by reason of physical or mental disability, emotional disturbance, recognized high risk of physical or mental disease, age, membership in a sibling group, racial or ethnic factors, or any combination of these conditions;

* Sec. 6. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.070(c).