

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1998

Source
SCS HCR 19(HES)

Legislative
Resolve No.
48



Relating to the Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Council.

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

WHEREAS Alaska has a long-standing commitment to serving its disabled citizens, including the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind; and

WHEREAS, based on national average rates, Alaska's population probably includes approximately 60,000 people who have hearing loss ranging from mild to severe; and

WHEREAS Alaska lifestyles include many activities that can cause hearing impairment, including travel by air and operation of four-wheelers, chain saws, snow machines, and other equipment; and

WHEREAS, although the hearing impaired represent the largest disability group in the United States, they are one of the most misunderstood and least served disability groups; and

WHEREAS the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind require many types of services, including rehabilitation, education, deaf interpretation, independent living, correctional, and mental health services; and

WHEREAS many deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind Alaskans experience drug and alcohol problems and live in communities with limited or no access to appropriate services; and

WHEREAS the several agencies, offices, and councils that provide services to the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind often develop policies and programs without adequate input from professional providers of these services or their consumers; and

WHEREAS coordination of services for this disability group could result in more efficient and effective service delivery; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Council (ADC) has been operating unofficially for several years as a referral center and clearinghouse of information for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind; and

WHEREAS several agencies that provide services to Alaska's deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind residents have expressed willingness to expand their financial support of the ADC in order to extend its effectiveness; and

WHEREAS the ADC has obtained a business license and certification as a nonprofit organization under sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code; and

WHEREAS additional visibility in the community of the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind, and the providers of professional services to these consumers, would help the ADC attract additional funding through grants, private fund raising, and donations; and

WHEREAS operation of the ADC does not require, nor is expected to require, funding from state government;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Council (ADC) as a statewide information clearinghouse and services referral center for issues affecting the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that private citizens, state agencies, schools, social service providers, private foundations, and all other parties who deal with the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind are encouraged to support the ADC and to use its services whenever appropriate.

A COPY of this resolution shall be sent to the Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Council, 731 Gambell, Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501-3754.