

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative  
Resolve No.  
76



Creating the Long-Term Care Task Force.

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

**WHEREAS** the establishment of a system to meet the long-term care needs of aging Alaskans is an important issue not only for elderly persons but also for young and middle-aged Alaskans as they attempt to meet the needs of their parents at the same time that they are facing their own and their children's needs; and

**WHEREAS** the cost of long-term care, whether in a home setting or in an institution, often exceeds an individual's ability to pay for the care either immediately or after a short period of time, causing extreme economic and social stress and hardship for many people who have worked hard for many years and still do not have sufficient assets or income to bear the costs of their care; and

**WHEREAS** residents in a Pioneers' Home have been asked to pay the full cost of their long-term care within seven years, resulting in as much as a 30 percent increase this year in some rates for care in the system; and

**WHEREAS** 80 percent of the cost of care for persons now receiving long-term care in privately operated long-term care facilities is paid through state and federal funds under the Medicaid program; and

**WHEREAS** current federal and state long-term care policies of the state have resulted in large subsidies from the state's general fund that will increase in the future, competing with funding for other state programs; and

**WHEREAS** the legislature established a working group in 1996 to analyze issues regarding long-term care services in the state, including projected costs to the state of various alternative methods of providing long-term care;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature establishes the Long-Term Care Task Force to develop an equitable plan for providing long-term care for all Alaskans; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall consist of the following nine voting members:

(1) three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; at least one member shall be a member of the majority and at least one a member of the minority;

(2) three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate; at least one member shall be a member of the majority and at least one a member of the minority;

(3) three members of the public, one each chosen by the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate, from among people who are receiving long-term care, have relatives who are receiving long-term care, are from an organization that represents the interests of people in need of long-term care, are health care providers whose services include long-term care, or have had experience with an Alaska Native organization that delivers long-term care services in a rural area of the state; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following persons may serve on the task force as nonvoting members:

(1) the commissioner of health and social services or the commissioner's designee;

(2) the commissioner of commerce and economic development or the commissioner's designee; and

(3) the commissioner of administration or the commissioner's designee; and

be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the public members of the task force shall serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall select a chair and vice-chair from among its voting members, shall meet as frequently as the task force determines necessary to perform its work, may meet during the interim, and may meet and vote by teleconference; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall

(1) review the work done and the recommendations made by the long-term care working group established under sec. 3, ch. 84, SLA 1996, if available;

(2) review existing elder care services in Alaska, including rural Alaska, including the current types of delivered care and the projected future care demands;

(3) review the existing Pioneers' Home system, its current types of delivered care, and its projected future care demands, and craft a mission statement for the Pioneers' Home system to set goals to meet long-term senior care needs;

(4) prepare a plan, including drafts of legislation that might be necessary to implement the plan, for establishment of an actuarially sound system of long-term care and propose funding options, including options that would allow prepayments by persons desiring coverage for long-term care and require reasonable copayments by the recipients of the care;

(5) hold public hearings on the plan, legislation, and funding proposals developed under (4) of this clause;

(6) redraft the plan, legislation, and funding proposals based on the comments received at the public hearings and other information that becomes available to the task force; the final plan, with proposed legislation and funding options, shall be available for public review at least 30 days before the convening of the First Regular Session of the Twenty-First Alaska State Legislature; and

(7) submit the plan, proposed legislation, and funding options to the Governor and the legislature by the convening of the First Regular Session of the Twenty-First Alaska State Legislature; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may begin work immediately upon the

appointment of its full voting membership and is terminated upon the convening of the First Regular Session of the Twenty-First Alaska State Legislature.