



LAWS OF ALASKA

2002

Source
SCS CSHB 209(HES)

Chapter No.
82

AN ACT

Directing the Department of Health and Social Services to establish a foster care transition program; relating to that program; and providing for an effective date.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

Approved by the Governor: June 20, 2002

Actual Effective Date: Section 3 takes effect June 21, 2002; remainder of Act takes effect July 1, 2002

AN ACT

1 Directing the Department of Health and Social Services to establish a foster care transition
2 program; relating to that program; and providing for an effective date.

3
4 *** Section 1.** AS 36.30.850(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

5 (4) grants and contracts with qualified entities for services under
6 AS 47.18.330 for the foster care transition program.

7 *** Sec. 2.** AS 47.18 is amended by adding new sections to read:

8 **Article 4A. Foster Care Transition Program.**

9 **Sec. 47.18.300. Program authorized.** (a) The department, in coordination
10 with local public and private agencies, shall design, develop, and implement a foster
11 care transition program to provide support and services to individuals who

12 (1) reach or have reached the age of 16 or older while in state foster
13 care and have not yet reached the age of 21; and

14 (2) meet other eligibility criteria established by the department under

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1 (b) of this section.

2 (b) The department may adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of
3 AS 47.18.300 - 47.18.390, including regulations establishing eligibility thresholds,
4 standards, and limits for the program. The department shall develop the regulations in
5 consultation with those public and private organizations considered necessary by the
6 department.

7 **Sec. 47.18.310. Program design.** The department, in coordination with local
8 public and private agencies, shall design the program as a continuation of the training
9 efforts related to independent living skills that were initiated when the state foster care
10 recipients were identified as being likely to remain in state foster care until reaching
11 the age of 18. The program design must require that program participants are directly
12 involved in identifying the program activities that will prepare them for independent
13 living.

14 **Sec. 47.18.320. Program development.** (a) Subject to the availability of an
15 appropriation made for the purposes of AS 47.18.300 - 47.18.390, the program may
16 provide

- 17 (1) education and vocational training;
18 (2) assistance in obtaining basic education and training;
19 (3) career and employment services;
20 (4) training in basic life skills;
21 (5) housing and utility assistance;
22 (6) mentoring and counseling; and
23 (7) other appropriate services to complement the efforts of former state
24 foster care recipients to achieve self-sufficiency.

25 (b) In developing the program, the department shall cooperate with and
26 coordinate the use of the resources available from other state and federal agencies
27 designed to provide support and services consistent with the purposes of the program.

28 **Sec. 47.18.330. Program implementation.** (a) The department may
29 implement the program through the award of contracts or grants to qualified entities to
30 provide services under the program. The department may award contracts and grants
31 if the contracts and grants further the purposes of and meet the requirements of

1 AS 47.18.300 - 47.18.390 and applicable regulations adopted under those sections.

2 (b) Contracts awarded under this section shall be administered in accordance
3 with AS 47.05.015 and regulations adopted under that section. Grants awarded under
4 this section shall be awarded using requirements established in regulations adopted
5 under AS 47.18.300 - 47.18.390 that are substantially similar to those set out in
6 AS 47.05.015 for contracts.

7 **Sec. 47.18.390. Definitions.** In AS 47.18.300 - 47.18.390,

8 (1) "program" means the foster care transition program authorized
9 under AS 47.18.300 - 47.18.390;

10 (2) "qualified entities" means municipalities, other political
11 subdivisions of the state, nonprofit corporations formed under AS 10.20, churches and
12 religious organizations, and incorporated and unincorporated entities operating within
13 the state that meet the requirements established by the department in regulation;

14 (3) "state foster care" means foster care, as defined in AS 47.10.990,
15 that is provided to a person who is in the custody of the department under AS 47.10
16 and AS 47.12.

17 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
18 read:

19 **TRANSITION: REGULATIONS.** Notwithstanding sec. 5 of this Act, the
20 Department of Health and Social Services may immediately proceed to adopt regulations
21 necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The regulations take effect under
22 AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before July 1, 2002.

23 * **Sec. 4.** Section 3 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

24 * **Sec. 5.** Except as provided in sec. 4 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2002.