



# LAWS OF ALASKA

2016

**Source**  
CSHB 188(FIN)

**Chapter No.**  
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## AN ACT

Establishing a program for financial accounts for individuals with disabilities; exempting the procurement of contracts for the program from the State Procurement Code; exempting certain information on participants in the program from being subject to inspection as a public record; providing that an account under the program for an individual with a disability is not a security; allowing a state to file a claim against an individual's financial account under the program to recover Medicaid payments after the individual's death; and providing for an effective date.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1



**AN ACT**

1 Establishing a program for financial accounts for individuals with disabilities; exempting the  
2 procurement of contracts for the program from the State Procurement Code; exempting  
3 certain information on participants in the program from being subject to inspection as a public  
4 record; providing that an account under the program for an individual with a disability is not a  
5 security; allowing a state to file a claim against an individual's financial account under the  
6 program to recover Medicaid payments after the individual's death; and providing for an  
7 effective date.

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9 \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
10 to read:

11 SHORT TITLE. AS 06.65, enacted by sec. 2 of this Act, may be cited as the Alaska  
12 ABLE Savings Program Act.

13 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 06 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

1                   **Chapter 65. Alaska Savings Program for Eligible Individuals.**

2                   **Sec. 06.65.010. Program authorized.** The Alaska savings program for eligible  
3 individuals is created in the department. The department shall implement and  
4 administer the program under this chapter and as required by the federal authorizing  
5 law.

6                   **Sec. 06.65.020. General department duties.** To implement and administer the  
7 program, the department shall, in addition to the other powers and duties provided to  
8 the department under this chapter,

9                               (1) develop, set, and approve the terms and conditions of the program,  
10 consistent with this chapter and the federal authorizing law, including limiting the  
11 nature and amount of contributions that may be made to a program account;

12                              (2) supervise the decisions about the investment of contributions to a  
13 program account;

14                              (3) seek required federal, state, and other regulatory agency rulings and  
15 exemptions;

16                              (4) arrange for the timely filing of required regulatory notices,  
17 disclosure documents, and reports;

18                              (5) arrange for the program to be audited annually; and

19                              (6) take other action that is not specifically identified in this section but  
20 that is necessary to

21                                       (A) obtain and maintain the tax benefits allowed under the  
22 federal authorizing law; and

23                                       (B) maintain favorable treatment for designated beneficiaries  
24 under state and federal programs that use a means test for eligibility.

25                   **Sec. 06.65.030. Modification of program.** Consistent with this chapter and  
26 the federal authorizing law, the department may modify the terms and conditions of  
27 the program as the department considers necessary or desirable for the effective and  
28 efficient operation of the program.

29                   **Sec. 06.65.040. Additional department powers.** The department may

30                              (1) set fees the department considers necessary or desirable for  
31 program transactions and services; and

1 (2) develop marketing plans and materials to promote the benefits of  
2 the program that are available to contributors under the program and to beneficiaries  
3 under the program.

4 **Sec. 06.65.050. Contracting authority; procurement exemption.** (a) The  
5 department may contract with a person to advise and assist in the implementation and  
6 operation of the program.

7 (b) The department may contract with a person to provide services for the  
8 program.

9 (c) The department may enter into a contract with other states to obtain or  
10 provide the services for implementing the program. The contract may include  
11 cooperative procurement by the states of a person to provide services for the program,  
12 including investment and record-keeping services.

13 (d) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this chapter, the department may  
14 enter into a contract with another state to allow the residents of

15 (1) this state to participate in a program established by another state  
16 under the federal authorizing law, instead of establishing the program in this state;

17 (2) that contracting state to participate in the program in this state.

18 (e) The procurement of contracts for the program, including procurement of  
19 services under a contract with other states, is exempt from AS 36.30 (State  
20 Procurement Code).

21 **Sec. 06.65.060. Investment oversight.** The department shall

22 (1) oversee and approve the selection of investment managers and  
23 advisors for the program;

24 (2) oversee all aspects of the program's investments and investment  
25 performance and decisions regarding the investment of program assets; and

26 (3) oversee all investment disclosure documents and regulatory filings  
27 related to program investments.

28 **Sec. 06.65.070. Financial contractor obligations.** In addition to any other  
29 obligations imposed by the contract with the department, if the department enters into  
30 a contract with a person to provide program accounts, the financial contractor shall

31 (1) provide program accounts that comply with the federal authorizing

1 law;

2 (2) take the action necessary to keep the program in compliance with  
3 the requirements of this chapter and to manage the program accounts in compliance  
4 with the federal authorizing law;

5 (3) keep adequate records of each program account and keep each  
6 program account segregated from other program accounts;

7 (4) as requested by the department, compile the information contained  
8 in statements required to be prepared under AS 06.65.210 and provide the statements  
9 and the compiled material to the department;

10 (5) provide the department with access to the books and records of the  
11 financial contractor to the extent needed to determine compliance with the contract,  
12 this chapter, and the federal authorizing law;

13 (6) hold program accounts for the benefit of the program account  
14 owner;

15 (7) be audited, at least annually, by a firm of certified public  
16 accountants acceptable to the department and provide the results of the audits to the  
17 department;

18 (8) upon request of the department, provide the department with copies  
19 of all filings and reports related to the program made by the financial contractor during  
20 the contract or while the financial contractor holds program accounts;

21 (9) upon request of the department, make available to the department  
22 for review the results of periodic examinations of the financial contractor by a state or  
23 federal banking, insurance, or securities agency, except to the extent that the report is  
24 confidential under state or federal law; and

25 (10) ensure that the descriptions of the program in the media that the  
26 financial contractor uses to promote the program are consistent with a marketing plan  
27 developed for the program.

28 **Sec. 06.65.080. Additional audits.** In addition to the annual audit required by  
29 AS 06.65.020(5), the department may require a financial contractor to have an audit  
30 conducted of the financial contractor's operations and financial position when the  
31 department is concerned about the financial position, the record-keeping practices, or

1 the status of the program accounts of the financial contractor.

2 **Sec. 06.65.090. Contract termination; nonrenewal.** The department may  
3 terminate or fail to renew a financial contract. If the department terminates or does not  
4 renew a contract with a financial contractor, the department shall take custody of the  
5 program accounts held by the financial contractor and transfer the program accounts to  
6 another financial contractor as soon as possible and into program accounts that are as  
7 similar as possible to the types of program accounts being transferred.

8 **Sec. 06.65.100. Eligible individuals.** To be eligible for a program account,  
9 when an individual or the individual's representative establishes the program account  
10 or makes a distribution to another program account under AS 06.65.200, the individual  
11 shall be an individual

12 (1) who is entitled to benefits based on blindness or disability under 42  
13 U.S.C. 401 - 434 or 42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1383f, and the blindness or disability occurred  
14 before the date on which the individual reached 26 years of age; or

15 (2) for whom a disability certification that satisfies the secretary and  
16 the federal authorizing law is filed with the secretary for the calendar year in which the  
17 eligible individual or the eligible individual's representative opens the program  
18 account.

19 **Sec. 06.65.110. Representative of eligible individual.** (a) A person may act as  
20 the representative of an eligible individual under this chapter if the eligible individual  
21 is a minor or lacks decision-making capacity and if the person is

22 (1) a parent, guardian, or conservator of the eligible individual; in this  
23 paragraph,

24 (A) "conservator" has the meaning given in AS 13.06.050;

25 (B) "guardian" has the meaning given in AS 13.06.050;

26 (C) "parent" includes a stepparent; or

27 (2) a trustee of the property of the eligible individual.

28 (b) The representative of an eligible individual may establish a program  
29 account for the eligible individual, and the eligible individual is the designated  
30 beneficiary of the program account. The representative shall manage the program  
31 account for the benefit of the designated beneficiary.

1 (c) In this section, "decision-making capacity" means the ability to understand  
2 and appreciate the nature and consequences of a decision and the ability to reach and  
3 communicate an informed decision.

4 **Sec. 06.65.120. Program account ownership.** (a) The owner of a program  
5 account is the designated beneficiary of the program account.

6 (b) If a representative of an eligible individual establishes a program account  
7 for an eligible individual, the representative is not an owner of the program account  
8 and does not have or acquire an interest in the assets of the program account.

9 **Sec. 06.65.130. Number of program accounts.** An eligible individual may  
10 not be the designated beneficiary on more than one program account.

11 **Sec. 06.65.140. Program account application.** The application for a program  
12 account must be in the form established by the department and contain

13 (1) the name, address, and social security number of the program  
14 account owner and, if applicable, the representative who opens the program account  
15 for the eligible individual; and

16 (2) additional information that the department and the secretary  
17 determine is necessary.

18 **Sec. 06.65.150. Program account establishment fee.** The financial contractor  
19 may charge an eligible individual a nonrefundable fee for establishing a program  
20 account. The department shall establish the amount of the fee by contract with the  
21 financial contractor or by regulation.

22 **Sec. 06.65.160. Program account contributions.** (a) As provided by the  
23 federal authorizing law, a person may make a contribution to a program account for  
24 the designated beneficiary.

25 (b) A person may not make a contribution to open or add to a program account  
26 unless the person makes the contribution by using a method of payment acceptable to  
27 the department.

28 (c) Any person may make a contribution to a program account, but the amount  
29 that the person may contribute is subject to the limits set by the federal authorizing law  
30 or the department.

31 (d) The department or the financial contractor shall reject or withdraw from a

1 program account

2 (1) that part of a contribution that exceeds the limit established under  
3 (c) of this section; or

4 (2) the total amount of a contribution, if the department or the financial  
5 contractor determines that the

6 (A) value of the program account without the contribution is  
7 equal to or greater than the maximum limit established by the federal  
8 authorizing statute for the program account; or

9 (B) designated beneficiary is not an eligible individual during  
10 the calendar year in which the contribution is made.

11 (e) If a person makes a distribution from a program account during a calendar  
12 year, the financial contractor shall report the distribution to the federal Internal  
13 Revenue Service and to the account owner or the representative of the account owner.

14 (f) The report under (e) of this section must include the distribution  
15 information required by state and federal law.

16 **Sec. 06.65.170. Limited investment direction.** A designated beneficiary or  
17 the designated beneficiary's representative may not, directly or indirectly, direct the  
18 investment of a program account, including the earnings on the program account,  
19 more than twice in one calendar year.

20 **Sec. 06.65.180. Change of designated beneficiary.** A designated beneficiary  
21 or the designated beneficiary's representative may change the designated beneficiary  
22 of a program account to an eligible individual who is a member of the family of the  
23 previous designated beneficiary.

24 **Sec. 06.65.190. Distributions for qualified expenses.** Except as allowed  
25 under AS 06.65.200, a designated beneficiary or the representative of the designated  
26 beneficiary may not make a withdrawal or other distribution from a program account  
27 unless the withdrawal or other distribution is used to pay for the qualified expenses of  
28 the designated beneficiary.

29 **Sec. 06.65.200. Rollover distribution.** (a) Subject to the restrictions in the  
30 federal authorizing law for rollover distributions, a designated beneficiary or the  
31 designated beneficiary's representative may make a distribution of the money in a

1 program account to another program account if the designated beneficiary of the  
2 program account to which the distribution is being made is

3 (1) the same eligible individual; or

4 (2) an eligible individual who is a member of the family of the  
5 designated beneficiary from whom the distribution is made.

6 (b) To qualify as a distribution allowed under (a) of this section, the  
7 designated beneficiary or the designated beneficiary's representative shall make the  
8 distribution to the other program account before the 60th day after the designated  
9 beneficiary or the designated beneficiary's representative makes the distribution from  
10 the program account.

11 **Sec. 06.65.210. Statements.** (a) A financial contractor shall provide program  
12 account statements to the designated beneficiary or the designated beneficiary's  
13 representative of each program account established with the financial contractor at  
14 least four times each year and at the times the department establishes.

15 (b) A financial contractor shall provide the department with the reports and  
16 information that the department requests that are related to the program account  
17 statements.

18 **Sec. 06.65.220. Preparation and filing.** In addition to the other reporting  
19 requirements of this chapter, a financial contractor shall prepare and file the  
20 statements, program account information, and other information as required by state  
21 and federal law and state and federal agencies.

22 **Sec. 06.65.230. Separate accounting.** A financial contractor shall provide  
23 separate accounting for each program account established with the financial  
24 contractor.

25 **Sec. 06.65.240. Annual fee.** A financial contractor may impose an annual fee  
26 as may be established by the department on the program account owner for the  
27 maintenance of a program account.

28 **Sec. 06.65.250. Use as security.** A person may not use a program account or  
29 an interest in a program account as security for a loan. If a person pledges a program  
30 account or an interest in a program account as security for a loan, the pledge is void.

31 **Sec. 06.65.260. No state obligation.** (a) This chapter may not be construed to

1 create an obligation of the state, the department, or an agency or instrumentality of the  
2 state to guarantee for the benefit of a designated beneficiary

3 (1) the return of the principal deposited in the program account;

4 (2) a rate of interest or other return on the principal in a program  
5 account; or

6 (3) the payment of interest or other return on the principal in a program  
7 account.

8 (b) Every contract, application, and other document that may be used in  
9 connection with opening a program account must clearly state that the state does not  
10 insure a program account or guarantee the items described in (a) of this section.

11 **Sec. 06.65.270. Confidentiality.** The department, the Department of Health  
12 and Social Services, and another state agency that receives information under  
13 AS 06.65.280 shall maintain the confidentiality of the information they receive or  
14 exchange under this chapter about eligible individuals, designated beneficiaries, and  
15 program accounts as required by state and federal law.

16 **Sec. 06.65.280. Exchange of information.** The department may exchange  
17 information with the Department of Health and Social Services and other state  
18 agencies to determine whether an individual is an eligible individual.

19 **Sec. 06.65.290. Treatment under means test programs.** (a) Notwithstanding  
20 a contrary provision of law, a state agency may not consider a program account  
21 amount in this or another state when determining the eligibility of the designated  
22 beneficiary of the program account to receive state assistance or state benefits or when  
23 determining the amount of state assistance or state benefits to be received by the  
24 designated beneficiary of the program account.

25 (b) In this section, "program account amount" means a contribution to a  
26 program account, earnings on the contribution, or a distribution for a qualified  
27 expense.

28 **Sec. 06.65.300. Deposit from permanent fund dividend.** A person who is  
29 eligible under AS 43.23 to receive a permanent fund dividend may make a deposit into  
30 the program account of a designated beneficiary from and up to the amount of the  
31 person's permanent fund dividend.

1           **Sec. 06.65.310. Program expense fund.** (a) The program expense fund is  
2 established as a separate fund of the state in the general fund.

3           (b) The program expense fund consists of money appropriated to the fund to  
4 pay the expenses of the program.

5           (c) The department shall pay the expenses incurred by the department to  
6 implement and administer the program from the program expense fund.

7           (d) The department shall manage the fund.

8           (e) Except as provided otherwise by the appropriation for the money, the  
9 money remaining in the program expense fund at the end of a fiscal year does not  
10 lapse and remains available for expenditure under this section in successive fiscal  
11 years.

12           **Sec. 06.65.320. Medicaid claims.** This state or another state may file a claim  
13 against the amount remaining in the program account of a deceased designated  
14 beneficiary to recover medical assistance payments if the payments were made for the  
15 designated beneficiary, were made under that state's Medicaid program authorized by  
16 42 U.S.C. 1396 - 1396p (Title XIX, Social Security Act), and were made after the  
17 program account of the designated beneficiary was established. The application of this  
18 section is subject to the requirements of 26 U.S.C. 529A(f) (Internal Revenue Code).

19           **Sec. 06.65.330. Governing law.** If a provision of this chapter conflicts with  
20 the requirements of the federal authorizing law for the program, the federal  
21 authorizing law governs to the extent of the conflict.

22           **Sec. 06.65.340. Regulations.** The department may adopt regulations under  
23 AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) to implement this chapter.

24           **Sec. 06.65.350. Annual report.** The department shall evaluate the program  
25 each year. The department shall submit an annual report containing the evaluation to  
26 the senate secretary and chief clerk of the house of representatives on or before the  
27 first day of each regular session of the legislature and shall notify the legislature that  
28 the report is available.

29           **Sec. 06.65.390. Definitions.** In this chapter,

30                   (1) "department" means the Department of Revenue;

31                   (2) "designated beneficiary" means the eligible individual for whom a

1 program account for qualified expenses is established under this chapter;

2 (3) "eligible individual" means an individual who is eligible under  
3 AS 06.65.100;

4 (4) "federal authorizing law" means 26 U.S.C. 529A (Internal Revenue  
5 Code) and the regulations issued under that statute;

6 (5) "financial contractor" means a person that enters into a contract  
7 with the department under this chapter to provide program accounts;

8 (6) "member of the family" has the meaning given in the federal  
9 authorizing statute;

10 (7) "program" means the Alaska savings program for eligible  
11 individuals established under AS 06.65.010;

12 (8) "program account" means a savings account used by the program  
13 to meet the qualified disability expenses of the designated beneficiary of the account;

14 (9) "program account owner" means the designated beneficiary of a  
15 program account;

16 (10) "qualified expense" means a qualified disability expense as  
17 defined by the federal authorizing law;

18 (11) "representative" means a person who is a representative of an  
19 eligible individual under AS 06.65.110(a);

20 (12) "savings account" means a financial account;

21 (13) "secretary" means the United States Secretary of the Treasury.

22 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 36.30.850(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

23 (47) a contract under AS 06.65.

24 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 40.25.120(a) is amended to read:

25 (a) Every person has a right to inspect a public record in the state, including  
26 public records in recorders' offices, except

27 (1) records of vital statistics and adoption proceedings, which shall be  
28 treated in the manner required by AS 18.50;

29 (2) records pertaining to juveniles unless disclosure is authorized by  
30 law;

31 (3) medical and related public health records;

1 (4) records required to be kept confidential by a federal law or  
2 regulation or by state law;

3 (5) to the extent the records are required to be kept confidential under  
4 20 U.S.C. 1232g and the regulations adopted under 20 U.S.C. 1232g in order to secure  
5 or retain federal assistance;

6 (6) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but  
7 only to the extent that the production of the law enforcement records or information

8 (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement  
9 proceedings;

10 (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an  
11 impartial adjudication;

12 (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted  
13 invasion of the personal privacy of a suspect, defendant, victim, or witness;

14 (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a  
15 confidential source;

16 (E) would disclose confidential techniques and procedures for  
17 law enforcement investigations or prosecutions;

18 (F) would disclose guidelines for law enforcement  
19 investigations or prosecutions if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to  
20 risk circumvention of the law; or

21 (G) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or  
22 physical safety of an individual;

23 (7) names, addresses, and other information identifying a person as a  
24 participant in the Alaska Higher Education Savings Trust under AS 14.40.802 or the  
25 advance college tuition savings program under AS 14.40.803 - 14.40.817;

26 (8) public records containing information that would disclose or might  
27 lead to the disclosure of a component in the process used to execute or adopt an  
28 electronic signature if the disclosure would or might cause the electronic signature to  
29 cease being under the sole control of the person using it;

30 (9) reports submitted under AS 05.25.030 concerning certain  
31 collisions, accidents, or other casualties involving boats;

1 (10) records or information pertaining to a plan, program, or  
2 procedures for establishing, maintaining, or restoring security in the state, or to a  
3 detailed description or evaluation of systems, facilities, or infrastructure in the state,  
4 but only to the extent that the production of the records or information

5 (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with the  
6 implementation or enforcement of the security plan, program, or procedures;

7 (B) would disclose confidential guidelines for investigations or  
8 enforcement and the disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk  
9 circumvention of the law; or

10 (C) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or  
11 physical safety of an individual or to present a real and substantial risk to the  
12 public health and welfare;

13 (11) the written notification regarding a proposed regulation provided  
14 under AS 24.20.105 to the Department of Law and the affected state agency and  
15 communications between the Legislative Affairs Agency, the Department of Law, and  
16 the affected state agency under AS 24.20.105;

17 (12) records that are

18 (A) proprietary, privileged, or a trade secret in accordance with  
19 AS 43.90.150 or 43.90.220(e);

20 (B) applications that are received under AS 43.90 until notice is  
21 published under AS 43.90.160;

22 (13) information of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation  
23 created under AS 31.25.010 or a subsidiary of the Alaska Gasline Development  
24 Corporation that is confidential by law or under a valid confidentiality agreement;

25 (14) information under AS 38.05.020(b)(11) that is subject to a  
26 confidentiality agreement under AS 38.05.020(b)(12);

27 **(15) names, addresses, and other information identifying a person**  
28 **as a participant in the Alaska savings program for eligible individuals under**  
29 **AS 06.65.**

30 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 45.55.990(32) is amended to read:

31 (32) "security" means a note; stock; treasury stock; bond; debenture;

1 evidence of indebtedness; certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing  
2 agreement; limited liability company interest under AS 10.50, notwithstanding the  
3 limitations of AS 45.08.103(c); collateral-trust certificate; preorganization certificate  
4 or subscription; transferable share; investment contract; voting-trust certificate;  
5 certificate of deposit for a security; viatical settlement interest; certificate of interest or  
6 participation in an oil, gas, or mining title or lease or in payments out of production  
7 under the title or lease or in any sale of or indenture or bond or contract for the  
8 conveyance of land or any interest in land; an option on a contract for the future  
9 delivery of agricultural or mineral commodities or any other commodity offered or  
10 sold to the public and not regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission;  
11 however, the contract or option is not subject to the provisions of AS 45.55.070 if it is  
12 sold or purchased on the floor of a bona fide exchange or board of trade and offered or  
13 sold to the public by a broker-dealer or agent registered under this chapter; investment  
14 of money or money's worth including goods furnished or services performed in the  
15 risk capital of a venture with the expectation of some benefit to the investor where the  
16 investor has no direct control over the investment or policy decision of the venture; or,  
17 in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as a "security," or any  
18 certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or interim certificate for, receipt  
19 for, guarantee of, or warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase, any of the foregoing;  
20 "security" does not include a participation agreement entered into under AS 14.40.802,  
21 **a program account established under AS 06.65**, or an insurance or endowment  
22 policy or annuity contract under which an insurance company promises to pay a fixed  
23 or variable sum of money either in a lump sum or periodically for life or for some  
24 other specified period;

25 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 47.07.055 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

26 (h) In addition to the claims allowed under the other provisions of this section,  
27 the state may file a claim under AS 06.65.320 against the amount in an individual's  
28 program account after the individual dies. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this  
29 section, the claim is subject to the requirements of 26 U.S.C. 529A(f) (Internal  
30 Revenue Code). In this subsection, "program account" has the meaning given in  
31 AS 06.65.390.

1     \* **Sec. 7.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
2 read:

3             TRANSITION. The Department of Revenue shall file its first report required by  
4 AS 06.65.350, added by sec. 2 of this Act, on or before the first day of the Second Regular  
5 Session of the Thirtieth Alaska State Legislature.

6     \* **Sec. 8.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
7 read:

8             TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The Department of Revenue may adopt regulations  
9 authorized by AS 06.65.340, added by sec. 2 of this Act. The regulations take effect under  
10 AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of sec. 2 of this  
11 Act.

12     \* **Sec. 9.** Section 8 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).