

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education *Legislative Update*

April 25, 2007

Volume 1 - Issue 11

Tuesday, January 16th began the 25th Alaska Legislative session in Juneau. During this session, the GCDSE is keeping you up-to-date by monitoring legislative action and tracking bills that relate to issues concerning health, education, disabilities, and services in the State of Alaska.

Moving in the House HB 4: *Medical Facility Certificate of Need*

This bill was introduced in the beginning of the legislative session on January 16th and made its first move on April 24th in the House Health, Education & Social Services Committee.

This bill relates to the elimination of a certificate of need for facilities and communities that have a population of more than 25,000, except for nursing homes and residential psychiatric treatment centers and additions costing \$1 million or more.

This bill continues to maintain a certificate of need for communities that have less than 25,000 and that have a critical access hospital, unless authorized under the terms of a certificate of need by the department, which include: Construction of a health care facility; alteration of the bed capacity of a health care facility; or the addition of a category of health services provided by a health care facility.

Sponsor:

Representative Bob Lynn (R-31)

Status:

01/16 introduced, read for the first time & referred to (H) HES;

04/24 held & heard in (H) HES

For More Information:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=hb+4

New Bill Introduced HB 239: *Substance Abuse/Mental Health Programs*

This bill was introduced, read for the first time, and referred on April 17th to the House Health, Education, & Social Services Committee. HB 239 is a companion bill to Senator Ellis' (D-L) Senate Bill 100.

This bill relates to substance abuse and mental health disorder prevention treatment programs and long-term treatment programs for individuals with substance abuse or co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders. Unlike the originally introduced Senate Bill 100, this bill does not include a pilot program, but still: Mandates priority treatment for pregnant women seeking help in overcoming addiction; establishes a secure enhanced detoxification and treatment center for individuals who are involuntarily detained; develops and implements a substance abuse treatment system using evidence or research-based best practices.

Sponsor:

Representative Nancy Dahlstrom (R-18)

Status:

04/17 introduced and read for the first time and referred to (H) HES

For More Information:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=hb+239



Held Committee Referrals and Bill Hearings:

Senate Bill 8:

Mental Health Patient's Right: Staff Gender

April 25th referred to (S) Judiciary

Senate Bill 76:

Tuition For Certain Children

April 23rd **passed Senate**

Senate Bill 93:

Professional Counselors

April 20th referred to (S) Rules

Senate Bill 100:

Substance Abuse/ Mental Health Programs

April 25th **passed Senate**

Senate Bill 160:

Mandatory Universal Health Care

April 23rd introduced & referred to (S) HES

Senate Joint Resolution 1:

Medical Assistance for Children

April 20th **passed House** & awaiting transmittal to the Governor

Senate Joint Resolution 3:

Medicare Rates in Alaska

April 25th referred to (H) Rules

Senate Concurrent Resolution 4:

Public Health/Health Compact

April 20th referred to (H) Rules

House Bill 4:

Medical Facility Certificate of Need

April 24th held & heard in (H) HES

House Bill 136:

Dental Hygienists

April 23rd held & heard in (S) HES

New Bill Introduced SB 160: *Mandatory Universal Health Care*

This bill establishes a framework mandating and ensuring affordable health care for all Alaskans. A board of 11 stakeholders will oversee the plan, allowing residents the ability to choose and purchase coverage that provides an affordable health care plan that meets their medical needs.

This bill also establishes an Alaskan Health Care Board in DHSS with the 11 stakeholders being appointed as members by the governor and subject to confirmation by the legislator. The board's duties will include; defining essential health care services, certifying health care plans that provide essential health care services, administering and managing the Alaska health care fund, the Alaska health care program, establishing eligibility standards and premium assistance for individuals with low income and standards for accountable health

care plans and the Alaska health care clearing house. The clearing house will be established as a division in DHSS to administer the Alaska health care program under the direction of the Alaska Health Care Board.

Sponsor(s):

Senator(s) HOLLIS FRENCH (D-M), Johnny Ellis (D-L), Bill Wielechowski (D-J)

Status:

04/23 introduced, read for the first time & referred to (S) HES

For More Information:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SBI60

Current Status of Moving Bills in the Legislature:

SB 8: Mental Health Patient's Rights: Staff Gender

Relates to a mental health patient's right to choose the gender of hospital staff providing intimate care to the mental health patient and to the duties of hospital staff in caring for patients receiving mental health treatment.

01/16 introduced & read for the first time > **04/18** (S) HES > **04/23** (S) HES > **04/25** referred to (S) Judiciary

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SB8

SB 76: Tuition for Certain Children

Establishes a higher education savings program for eligible children who were placed in out-of-home care by the state; and providing for confidentiality of identifying information of a beneficiary under the program.

04/23 passed Senate

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SB76

SB 93: Professional Counselors

Relates to licensed professional counselors; and relating to the unlicensed use of the title 'professional counselor.'

03/21 passed Senate > **04/18** (H) L&C > **04/20** referred to (S) Rules

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SB93

SB 100: Substance Abuse/Mental Health Programs

Relates to substance abuse and mental health disorder prevention and treatment programs; and relating to long-term secure treatment programs for persons with substance abuse or co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders.

04/25 passed Senate

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=sb+100

SB 160: Mandatory Universal Health Care

An Act establishing an Alaska health care program to ensure insurance coverage for essential health services for all residents of the State of Alaska.

04/23 introduced, read for the first time, and referred to the Senate Health, Education & Social Services Committee

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SB160

SJR 1: Medical Assistance for Children

Relates to the reauthorization of federal funding for children's health insurance and encouraging the Governor to support additional funding for and access to children's health insurance.

03/14 passed Senate > **04/20** passed House & awaiting transmittal to the Governor

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=sjr+1

SJR 3: Medicare Rates in Alaska

Relates to the effect of Medicare rates on senior citizens' access to healthcare and urging the United States Congress to increase Medicare rates for Alaska.

04/11 passed Senate > **04/24** (H) HES > **04/25** referred to (H) Rules

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SJR3

SCR 4: Public Health/Health Compact

Relates to public health and a health compact.

03/28 passed Senate > **04/17** (H) HES > **04/20** referred to (H) Rules

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SCR4

HB 4: Medical Facility Certificate of Need

Amends the certificate of need requirements to apply only to health care facilities that are nursing homes or residential psychiatric treatment centers.

01/16 introduced & read for the first time > **04/24** (H) HES

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=hb+4

HB 95: Appropriations: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds

03/27 passed House > **04/18** passed Senate

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB95

HB 96: Appropriations: Mental Health Budget

03/26 passed House > **04/18** passed Senate

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB96

HB 136: Dental Hygienists

Relates to the supervision of dental hygienists by dentists; establishes a restorative function license endorsement for dental hygienists and allowing collaborative agreements between licensed dentists and dental hygienists.

04/11 passed House > **04/23** (S) HES

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB136

HB 239: Substance Abuse/ Mental Health Programs

Relates to substance abuse and mental health disorder prevention and treatment programs and to long-term secure treatment programs for persons with substance abuse or co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders.

04/17 introduced, read for the first time, and referred to (H) HES

Info:
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB239

Upcoming Scheduled Committee Bill Hearings:



Currently there are no scheduled committee bill hearings. For more information please link to:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/hearing_form.asp?session=25

If you have any Questions or Comments, please contact:

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