

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

May 3, 2007

Volume 1 - Issue 12

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.

## Companion Bill Introduced in House HB 242: **Mandatory Universal Health Care**

This is a companion bill to SB 160 and establishes an essential health care insurance program for low-income individuals not covered under an employer or government-sponsored health benefit program. It 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) GABRIELLE LEDOUX (R-36), Bob Buch (D-27), Les Gara (D-23)

### Status:

04/26 introduced, read for the first time & referred to (H) HES

### For More Information:

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB242](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB242)

## Autism Increment in Conference Committee for HB 95 & 96

House bills 95 & 96 have been moved into conference committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate budget versions. Members from the House who have been appointed to the conference are Mike Chenault (R-34), co-chair of (H) Finance, Kevin Meyer (R-30), co-chair of (H) Finance and Reggie Joule (D-40), member of the (H) Finance Committee. Members from the Senate who have been appointed to the Conference Committee are Lyman Hoffman (D-S), co-chair of (S) Finance, Bert Stedman (R-A), co-chair of (S) Finance and Fred Dyson (R-I), member of the (S) Finance Committee. The Governor's Council has continued working in effort

to support and advocate funding for autism diagnosis services. There is funding in the House for the autism increment, but the Senate has not included it in their version of the budget. Therefore, the recommended \$500,000 autism increment will be on the agenda as a difference to be resolved in conference committee.

### For More Information:

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_bill.asp?session=25&bill=hb+95](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=hb+95)

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB96](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB96)

## House Joint Resolution 22: **Denounce Sale of "Rapist" Doll**

According to the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), Alaska's rape rate is 2.5 times the national average. The State has the highest per capita occurrence of sexual assault in the nation and has been ranked among the top five states in the nation for rape and sexual assault. With the current release of the movie Grindhouse, collectible dolls have been created with the name "Rapist #1." This resolution urges all Alaska businesses and consumers to boycott the sale and purchase of these collectible dolls and also urges Alaskans to recognize the severe consequences of rape and the glorification of the crime that this doll represents.

### Sponsor(s):

Representative(s); ANNA FAIRCLOUGH (R-17), John Harris (R-12), Ralph Samuels (R-29), Lindsey Holmes (D-26), Craig Johnson (R-28), Les Gara (D-23), Mike Chenault (R-34), Nancy Dahlstrom (R-18), Bob Lynn (R-31), Mike Kelly (R-7), Bob Buch (D-27)

### Status:

05/01 held & heard in (H) STA

### For More Information:

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HJR22](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HJR22)



## **Held Committee Referrals and Bill Hearings:**

### **Senate Bill 8:**

#### ***Mental Health Patient's Right: Staff Gender***

April 30th held & heard in (S) Judiciary  
May 2nd Referred to (S) Finance

### **Senate Bill 76:**

#### ***Tuition For Certain Children***

May 2nd held & heard in (H) Finance  
moved out of committee  
& referred to House Rules

### **Senate Bill 93:**

#### ***Professional Counselors***

May 3rd **passed House**

### **Senate Bill 100:**

#### ***Substance Abuse/***

#### ***Mental Health Programs***

April 26th referred to (H) HES

### **House Bill 136:**

#### ***Dental Hygienists***

May 1st held & heard in (S) L&C

### **House Joint Resolution 22:**

#### ***Denounce Sale of "Rapist" Doll***

May 1st held & heard in (H) STA

## Current Status of Moving Bills in the Legislature:



### Upcoming Scheduled Committee Bill Hearings:

#### **Thursday, May 3rd 1:30pm**

##### **House Bill 136:**

*Dental Hygienists*  
(S) L&C Rm. 211 Capitol  
Teleconference

#### **Thursday, May 3rd 3:00pm**

##### **Senate Bill 100:**

*Substance Abuse/Mental Health Programs*  
(H) HES Rm. 106 Capitol  
Teleconference

#### **Thursday, May 3rd 5:00pm**

##### **House Bills 95 & 96:**

*Operating/Mental Health Budgets*  
(S&H) Conference Committee Hearing  
Senate Finance Rm. 532 Capitol

#### **Monday, May 7th 5:00pm**

##### **House Joint Resolution 22:**

*Denounce Sale of "Rapist" Doll*  
(H) Rules Rm. 106 Capitol  
Teleconference

To listen to live audio/video on Gavel-to-Gavel Alaska, please link to:  
<http://www.ktoo.org/gavel/stream.cfm>

For more information on committee schedules/hearings, please link to:  
[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/hearing\\_form.asp?session=25](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/hearing_form.asp?session=25)

### **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 > **04/18** (S) HES > **04/23** (S) HES > **04/30** (S) Judiciary

**Info:**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SB8](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 > **04/26** referred to (H) Finance > **05/02** (H) Finance

**Info:**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SB76](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 > **05/03** passed House

**Info:**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SB93](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 > **05/03** (H) HES

**Info:**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_bill.asp?session=25&bill=sb+100](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=sb+100)

### **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](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](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 > **04/25** referred to (S) L&C > **05/01** (S) L&C

**Info:**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB136](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB136)

### **HB 242: 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.

**04/26** introduced and referred to the (H) HES

**Info:**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_bill.asp?session=25&bill=hb242](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=hb242)

### **HJR 22: Denounce Sale of "Rapist" Doll**

This Act denounces the National Entertainment Collectibles Association's production of the Rapist No. 1 collectible doll.

**04/26** introduced > **05/01** (H) STA > **05/01** referred to (H) Rules

**Info:**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HJR22](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HJR22)

#### **If you have any Questions or Comments, please contact:**

Karolina Bednarska  
GCDSE Legislative Intern  
E-mail: [Karolina\\_Bednarska@health.state.ak.us](mailto:Karolina_Bednarska@health.state.ak.us)  
Telephone: (907) 269-8462

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education  
3601 C Street  
PO Box 240249  
Anchorage, AK. 99524-0249