

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 228(MLV)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Offered: 3/6/24

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska mental health and psychedelic medicine task force; and**
2 **providing for an effective date."**

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

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

6 ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHEDELIC MEDICINE TASK FORCE.

7 (a) The Alaska mental health and psychedelic medicine task force is established in the
8 legislature. The purpose of the task force is to prepare for the potential medicalization of
9 psychedelic medicines by the United States Food and Drug Administration; to make policy
10 recommendations to the Alaska State Legislature concerning insurance and licensure, given
11 the unique nature of the administration of psychedelic medicines; and to ensure the state is
12 prepared if psychedelic medicines become available for prescription. The task force shall

13 (1) assess the potential use of psychedelic medicine in addressing the state's
14 ongoing mental health crisis;

1 (2) consider barriers to implementation and equitable access;

2 (3) consider and recommend licensing and insurance requirements for
3 practitioners in the state in the event that psychedelic medicines are federally reclassified and
4 approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and

5 (4) consider legal and regulatory changes that could be necessary in the state
6 after federal medical approval of psychedelic medicines.

7 (b) The task force consists of the following members:

8 (1) the commissioner of health, or the commissioner's designee;

9 (2) the commissioner of military and veterans' affairs, or the commissioner's
10 designee;

11 (3) the commissioner of commerce, community, and economic development,
12 or the commissioner's designee;

13 (4) one member representing mental health issues in the state, selected by the
14 state chapter of a national alliance focused on mental health and mental illness;

15 (5) two members representing the health care needs of Alaska Native
16 communities, selected by the board of directors of the Alaska Native Health Board;

17 (6) one member representing the health care needs of survivors of domestic
18 violence and sexual assault, selected by the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and
19 Sexual Assault;

20 (7) one member representing the psychiatric profession, selected by the
21 governing body of the Alaska Psychiatric Association;

22 (8) one member representing licensed therapists or counselors, selected by the
23 board of directors of the Alaska Addiction Professionals Association;

24 (9) one member representing psychiatric nurse practitioners, selected by the
25 board of directors of the Alaska Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Alliance;

26 (10) one member of the faculty of the division of population health sciences at
27 the University of Alaska, selected by the president of the University of Alaska;

28 (11) one member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate;

29 (12) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of
30 the house of representatives;

31 (13) up to three members selected by the task force, once assembled, that the

1 task force determines would serve the purpose of the task force; the task force is not required
2 to make an appointment under this paragraph.

3 (c) The members appointed by the president of the senate and the speaker of the
4 house of representatives under (b)(11) and (12) of this section shall serve as co-chairs of the
5 task force.

6 (d) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
7 selection or appointment.

8 (e) Members of the task force serve without compensation.

9 (f) The task force shall

10 (1) meet at least four times to fulfill the purpose of the task force; and

11 (2) on or before December 31, 2024, submit to the senate secretary, the chief
12 clerk of the house of representatives, and the governor a report consisting of its
13 recommendations, and notify the legislature that the report is available.

14 (g) The task force terminates when the First Regular Session of the Thirty-Fourth
15 Alaska State Legislature convenes.

16 (h) In this section, "task force" means the Alaska mental health and psychedelic
17 medicine task force.

18 * **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).