

HOUSE BILL NO. 28

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARA

Introduced: 1/9/15

Referred: Prefiled

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the foster care independent living transition program; and**
2 **establishing and relating to the foster care independent living transition program fund."**

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 LEGISLATIVE INTENT. The legislature intends to appropriate, during fiscal year
7 2016, an amount equal to \$500,000 to the foster care independent living transition program
8 fund established under AS 47.18.320(a), as amended by sec. 3 of this Act.

9 * **Sec. 2.** AS 36.30.850(b)(38) is amended to read:

10 (38) grants and contracts with qualified entities for services under
11 AS 47.18.330 for the foster care **independent living** transition program;

12 * **Sec. 3.** AS 47.18.300(a) is amended to read:

13 (a) The department, in coordination with local public and private agencies,
14 shall design, develop, and implement a foster care **independent living** transition

1 program to provide support and services to individuals who

2 (1) reach or have reached the age of 16 or older while in state foster
3 care and have not yet reached 23 years of age; and

4 (2) meet other eligibility criteria established by the department under
5 (b) of this section.

6 * **Sec. 4.** AS 47.18.320(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) **The foster care independent living transition program fund is**
8 **established in the general fund. The fund consists of money appropriated to the**
9 **fund. Appropriations to the fund do not lapse. The department may award**
10 **contracts and grants to qualified entities from the fund** [SUBJECT TO THE
11 AVAILABILITY OF AN APPROPRIATION MADE] for the purposes of
12 AS 47.18.300 - 47.18.390 **to** [, THE PROGRAM MAY] provide

13 (1) education and vocational training, **including assistance to obtain**
14 **a high school diploma or a general education development diploma or its**
15 **equivalent;**

16 (2) assistance in obtaining basic education and training;

17 (3) career and employment **training and** services;

18 (4) training in basic life skills;

19 (5) housing and utility assistance;

20 (6) mentoring and counseling; and

21 (7) other appropriate services to complement the efforts of former state
22 foster care recipients to achieve self-sufficiency.

23 * **Sec. 5.** AS 47.18.390(1) is amended to read:

24 (1) "program" means the foster care **independent living** transition
25 program authorized under AS 47.18.300 - 47.18.390;

26 * **Sec. 6.** AS 47.18.390(2) is amended to read:

27 (2) "qualified entities" means municipalities, other political
28 subdivisions of the state, nonprofit corporations formed under AS 10.20, churches and
29 religious organizations, **Alaska Native tribal and nonprofit entities,** and
30 incorporated and unincorporated entities operating within the state that meet the
31 requirements established by the department in regulation;