

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 284

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES DAHLSTROM, GARA, AND HERRON, Peggy Wilson, Lynn, Petersen, Tuck

Introduced: 1/21/10

Referred: Health and Social Services, State Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to accept federal
2 prescription drug benefits or to provide comparable benefits for residents of the Alaska
3 Pioneers' Home, including residents eligible for discount or free benefits from the
4 United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Indian Health Service of the United
5 States Department of Health and Human Services."

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

7 * **Section 1.** AS 47.55.010(c) is amended to read:

8 (c) The department shall

9 (1) cooperate with the federal government in matters pertaining to the
10 welfare of Alaska pioneers and of veterans who reside in the homes operated under
11 this chapter, make the reports in the form and containing the information the federal
12 government from time to time desires, and accept money **and prescription drug**
13 **benefits** allotted by the federal government, its agencies, or its instrumentalities in

1 establishing, extending, and strengthening services for pioneers and veterans who
2 reside in a home operated under this chapter;

3 (2) adopt regulations necessary to conduct business and to carry out
4 the provisions of this chapter, require bonds and undertakings from persons employed
5 by a home as in its judgment are necessary, and pay the premiums on them, and
6 establish regional and local offices and the advisory groups that are necessary or
7 considered expedient to carry out or assist in carrying out a duty or authority assigned
8 to it;

9 (3) perform all executive or administrative duties necessary and
10 advisable to carry out the purpose of this chapter, including the power to make
11 contracts and to make disbursements on vouchers against appropriations for the
12 purpose of this chapter, within the limit of appropriations available;

13 (4) study the needs of pioneers and veterans of this state who reside in
14 the homes operated under this chapter and submit recommendations for new
15 regulations and proposed legislation.

16 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.55.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

17 (f) Instead of accepting federal prescription drug benefits under
18 AS 47.55.010(c)(1), including benefits to residents eligible for discount or free
19 benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Indian Health
20 Service of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the
21 department may adopt regulations to provide comparable prescription drug benefits to
22 pioneers and veterans who reside in the Alaska Pioneers' Home operated under this
23 chapter and who are eligible for federal prescription drug benefits.