

SENATE BILL NO. 198

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR KELLY

Introduced: 2/19/18

Referred:

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to a study of the effectiveness and cost of providing long-acting**
2 **reversible contraception to women with substance abuse disorders."**

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 UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA; STUDY OF LONG-ACTING REVERSIBLE
7 CONTRACEPTION FOR WOMEN WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS. (a) The
8 University of Alaska Anchorage Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies shall conduct a
9 study to evaluate the effectiveness of providing long-acting reversible contraception to
10 women with substance abuse disorders who are at high risk for unintended pregnancies that
11 may result in prenatal drug or alcohol exposure. The university shall collaborate with
12 hospitals and health care providers in the state who treat women with substance abuse
13 disorders to

14 (1) establish an advisory council to assist with designing and implementing

1 the study;

2 (2) evaluate best practices for treating women and children when there is a
3 high risk of neonatal abstinence syndrome or fetal alcohol spectrum disorders;

4 (3) facilitate the creation of an effective network of hospitals and service
5 providers for the sharing of best practices;

6 (4) identify women and children to participate in the study on a voluntary
7 basis;

8 (5) provide long-acting reversible contraception to participants in the study
9 who are at high risk for unintended pregnancies that may result in prenatal drug or alcohol
10 exposure;

11 (6) evaluate the costs of providing long-acting reversible contraception and the
12 effectiveness of long-acting reversible contraception in reducing the occurrence of neonatal
13 abstinence syndrome and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders;

14 (7) develop a cohort of women and children, through the study, who can be
15 evaluated in later studies that assess the costs and long-term effects of neonatal abstinence
16 syndrome and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders in the state; and

17 (8) provide a data-driven framework to establish a comprehensive strategy for
18 using long-acting reversible contraception to reduce the occurrence of neonatal abstinence
19 syndrome and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders in the state.

20 (b) The University of Alaska shall complete a final report and two interim reports
21 describing the results of the study, evaluating the cost and effectiveness of providing long-
22 acting reversible contraceptives to women in substance abuse treatment programs, and
23 providing recommendations for treating pregnant women who have substance abuse disorders
24 and improving the health and well-being of children who have been exposed to alcohol or
25 drugs before birth. The university shall complete the first interim report not later than June 30,
26 2019, the second interim report not later than June 30, 2020, and the final report not later than
27 June 30, 2021, and submit each report to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house
28 of representatives and notify the legislature that each report is available.

29 (c) In this section,

30 (1) "fetal alcohol spectrum disorder" means a condition of impaired brain
31 function in the range of permanent birth defects caused by maternal consumption of alcohol

1 during pregnancy;

2 (2) "long-acting reversible contraception" means a method of birth control that
3 prevents a woman from becoming pregnant for an extended time without requiring action by
4 the user, but that can be reversed to allow the woman to become pregnant;

5 (3) "neonatal abstinence syndrome" describes symptoms that occur in a
6 newborn child who was exposed to addictive drugs before birth as a result of the
7 discontinuation of exposure to the drugs at birth.

8 * **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this Act is repealed June 30, 2021.