



LAWS OF ALASKA

2020

Source

SCS CSHB 96(FIN)

Chapter No.

AN ACT

Relating to Alaska Pioneers' Home and Alaska Veterans' Home payments, rates, and services; and providing for an effective date.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

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1 Relating to Alaska Pioneers' Home and Alaska Veterans' Home payments, rates, and services;
2 and providing for an effective date.

3

4 * **Section 1.** AS 47.55.010(e) is amended to read:

5 (e) The department may engage in activities directed to increase revenue from
6 a home. These activities may include the use [LEASE] of excess bed or floor space,
7 up to 50 percent of the total floor space in a home, or lease of space or buildings that
8 are not in use or are underutilized.

9 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.55.020(a) is amended to read:

10 (a) Every person residing in the state who is 60 [65] years of age or older, has
11 been a resident of the state continuously for more than one year immediately
12 preceding application for admission, and is in need of residence at a home because of
13 physical disability or other reason, is eligible for admission to the Alaska Pioneers'
14 Home or the Alaska Veterans' Home under conditions prescribed in regulations. The
15 spouse of a person who is eligible for admission under other provisions of this

1 subsection is also eligible for admission to a home under conditions prescribed by the
2 department if the spouse is **60** [65] years of age or older and has been a resident of the
3 state continuously for more than one year immediately preceding application for
4 admission.

5 * **Sec. 3.** AS 47.55.020(b) is amended to read:

6 (b) Every person admitted to a home who receives income from any source in
7 excess of **\$300** [\$200] a month shall be required by the department to pay the excess
8 to the department immediately upon receipt of the money in payment, or part payment,
9 of the cost of the person's care. However, the department may not require in any
10 month the payment of an amount greater than the monthly **or daily rates** [RATE] set
11 under **AS 47.55.030(f) plus charges under** AS 47.55.030(b) except to satisfy
12 indebtedness incurred under AS 47.55.070. The department may not evict a person
13 from a home if the income and assets of the person are insufficient to pay the monthly
14 **or daily rates** [RATE] set under **AS 47.55.030(f) plus charges under**
15 AS 47.55.030(b) and the person is otherwise in compliance with requirements under
16 this chapter.

17 * **Sec. 4.** AS 47.55.020(d) is amended to read:

18 (d) Notwithstanding AS 47.55.070 and (b) of this section, a resident of a home
19 whose income, assets, and other resources are insufficient to pay the monthly **or daily**
20 **rates** [RATE] set under **AS 47.55.030(f) plus charges under** AS 47.55.030(b), and
21 who does not have private insurance to cover the cost of care, qualifies for payment
22 assistance if the resident is otherwise in compliance with requirements under this
23 chapter. The amount of payment assistance equals the amount needed, when added to
24 other income and assets of the resident, to pay the monthly **or daily rates** [RATE] set
25 under **AS 47.55.030(f) plus charges under** AS 47.55.030(b). Payment assistance
26 received by a home resident is a debt to the state. In determining the amount of
27 payment assistance for which a home resident qualifies, the following income, assets,
28 and other resources of the resident shall be disregarded:

- 29 (1) income from any source in an amount up to **\$300** [\$200] a month
30 as established by the department by regulation;
- 31 (2) the following assets received under 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq. (Alaska

1 Native Claims Settlement Act):

2 (A) cash dividends and other income equal to at least \$2,000 as
3 established by the department by regulation;

4 (B) stock;

5 (C) noncash dividends from stock; and

6 (D) land;

7 (3) a permanent fund dividend issued under AS 43.23;

8 (4) compensation to volunteers under the federal retired and senior
9 volunteers (42 U.S.C. 5001), foster grandparents (42 U.S.C. 5011), and senior
10 companion (42 U.S.C. 5013) programs made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 5044(f);

11 (5) federal World War II restitution payments made under 50 U.S.C.
12 App. 1989b-4 and c-5;

13 (6) payments under AS 18.67 (Violent Crimes Compensation Board);

14 (7) an amount, determined by the department by regulation, that is
15 sufficient for burial expenses of the resident, the resident's spouse, and dependents of
16 the resident;

17 (8) real property being used as the primary residence of the resident's
18 spouse or a dependent of the resident;

19 (9) other real or personal property equal to at least a total value of up
20 to \$10,000 as established by the department by regulation;

21 (10) federal payments that are excluded by law from income for
22 federal assistance purposes.

23 * **Sec. 5.** AS 47.55.030(a) is amended to read:

24 (a) A person eligible for admission under AS 47.55.020 may, on application,
25 be admitted to the Alaska Pioneers' Home or the Alaska Veterans' Home upon the
26 person's agreement to pay to the state **the applicable** [EACH MONTH AN] amount
27 **specified in (f) of this section plus charges under (b) of this section** [THE
28 DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS SUFFICIENT TO COMPENSATE THE STATE FOR
29 THE COST OF CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE PERSON AT THE HOME]. When
30 this agreement is entered into, the department may require security for the payments.

31 * **Sec. 6.** AS 47.55.030(b) is repealed and reenacted to read:

1 (b) The department may charge a home resident reasonable fees to cover the
2 cost of supplies, medication, equipment, and services provided to the home resident
3 that are not included in the monthly or daily rates specified in (f) of this section.

4 * **Sec. 7.** AS 47.55.030 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

5 (f) Except as provided in (b) and (g) of this section, the department may
6 charge a home resident a monthly or daily rate of not more than

7 (1) \$2,976 a month for the provision of level I care;

8 (2) \$5,396 a month for the provision of level II care;

9 (3) \$7,814 a month for the provision of level III care;

10 (4) \$9,333 a month for the provision of level IV care;

11 (5) a monthly rate the department considers sufficient to compensate
12 the state for the cost of care and support of the home resident for the provision of
13 level V care;

14 (6) \$200 a day for services provided to a home resident who requires
15 the provision of housing, meals, emergency assistance, medication administration,
16 health-related services, recreation, and extensive assistance with activities of daily
17 living for up to eight hours a day between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., including meals
18 scheduled during the period the recipient is receiving the services;

19 (7) \$322 a day for room and board provided in a home to a recipient
20 who requires the provision of housing, meals, emergency assistance, medication
21 administration, health-related services, recreation, and extensive assistance with
22 activities of daily living for 24 hours a day for up to 14 consecutive days.

23 (g) Not later than 90 days after social security benefits are increased under 42
24 U.S.C. 415(i) (Social Security Act), the department shall adjust the monthly and daily
25 rates in (f) of this section by a percentage equal to the percentage increase in the cost-
26 of-living adjustment provided for the social security benefits. The department may not
27 make any other changes to the rates in (f) of this section.

28 (h) The department shall by regulation define and establish criteria for each
29 level of care in (f)(1) - (5) of this section.

30 * **Sec. 8.** AS 47.55.070 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 47.55.070. Indebtedness of home resident to state.** The following

1 expenses incurred for an Alaska Pioneers' Home or Alaska Veterans' Home resident
2 under this chapter and not recoverable from a collateral source are a debt of the
3 resident to the state and may be recovered during the life of the resident:

4 (1) costs of standard or nursing care provided in the home each month
5 to the resident not exceeding the **rates and charges** [RATE] established [BY THE
6 DEPARTMENT] under AS 47.55.030, with credit given for any amounts paid by or
7 collected from the resident;

8 (2) allowances paid under AS 47.55.020(c);

9 (3) arrearages in fees for television and telephone services provided in
10 the home; and

11 (4) costs of prescription medicine.

12 * **Sec. 9.** AS 47.55.030(c) and 47.55.030(d) are repealed.

13 * **Sec. 10.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
14 read:

15 TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The Department of Health and Social Services shall
16 adopt regulations necessary to implement this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62
17 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the law implemented by
18 the regulation.

19 * **Sec. 11.** Section 10 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

20 * **Sec. 12.** Except as provided in sec. 11 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2020.