

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 264(HSS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/28/24

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE VANCE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act requiring the Department of Family and Community Services to develop a
2 shared screening methodology; requiring shelters for runaway minors to screen minors
3 for victimization relating to sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and commercial sexual
4 exploitation; requiring the Department of Family and Community Services to screen
5 children in need of aid for victimization relating to sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and
6 commercial sexual exploitation; and relating to the duty of the Department of Family
7 and Community Services to investigate the experiences of missing children in need of aid
8 who have been located."

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

10 * **Section 1.** AS 47.10.394(c) is amended to read:

11 (c) In this section,

12 (1) "child abuse or neglect" has the meaning given in AS 47.17.290;

1 **(2) "commercial sexual exploitation" means the sexual abuse or**
 2 **exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for**
 3 **anything of value given or received by any person.**

4 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.10.394 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (d) A shelter for runaway minors shall use the screening methods developed in
 6 AS 47.14.100(u) to screen minors receiving services to determine whether the minor is
 7 a victim, or at risk of becoming a victim, of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or
 8 commercial sexual exploitation. A shelter for runaway minors shall screen a minor
 9 upon intake and any time the shelter receives information that circumstances exist
 10 indicating that the minor is at a heightened risk for sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or
 11 commercial sexual exploitation.

12 * **Sec. 3.** AS 47.14.100(t) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

13 (4) "commercial sexual exploitation" means the sexual abuse or
 14 exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for
 15 anything of value given or received by any person.

16 * **Sec. 4.** AS 47.14.100 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

17 (u) The department shall work with agency partners and advocacy
 18 organizations to develop a shared screening methodology to appropriately identify
 19 whether a child is a victim of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or commercial sexual
 20 exploitation. The methods shall support the trafficking information-gathering efforts in
 21 the state. The department shall screen a child committed to the department upon the
 22 child's initial commitment to the department and when the department receives
 23 information indicating that the child may be a victim of sexual abuse, sex trafficking,
 24 or commercial sexual exploitation.

25 (v) Upon locating a child committed to the custody of the department who was
 26 missing, abducted, or ran away, the department shall

27 (1) investigate the child's experiences while absent from the custody of
 28 the department;

29 (2) determine the primary factors that caused or contributed to the
 30 child's absence; and

31 (3) screen the child to determine whether the child is a victim of sexual

1 abuse, sex trafficking, or commercial sexual exploitation.

2 * **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
3 read:

4 TRANSITION. The Department of Family and Community Services shall develop and
5 begin using the shared screening methodology required by sec. 4 of this Act not later than one
6 year after the date this Act takes effect.