



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: www.akrepublicans.org

Sponsor: Senator Gary Stevens
Current Version: CS SJR 19 (FIN)
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Joint Resolution 19

Short Title: TASK FORCE ON HOSPITAL INFECTIONS

Summary:

- Establishes the Task Force to Assess Public Reporting of Health Care Associated Infections.
- Composes the task force of: two state senators; two state representatives; the state chief of epidemiology; a health care consumer from rural Alaska; a health care provider from urban Alaska; a representative of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; a representative of the Alaska Chapter of the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology; and a representative of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association.
- Requires the task force to:
 - review the experience of the public with reporting of infections associated with health care and hospitals;
 - develop a white paper to be used for drafting legislation for reporting of infections associated with health care and hospitals that addresses the unique health care challenges in the state.
- Terminates the task force on Feb. 1, 2007.

Benefits:

- Advances efforts to make information about infections associated with health care available to the public, enabling patients to make more informed choices about their health care.
- Helps improve overall health care quality.

Background:

- An estimated 2 billion infections associated with health care occur in the United States each year, taking 90,000 lives and costing \$4.5 billion in excess health care costs. Since 2002, six states have enacted legislation that requires hospitals to report hospital-acquired infections to the public. The state of Alaska, on the other hand, does not currently require reporting of these kinds of infections except as part of a risk management program.