



Health, Education, and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives

HB 209--PROGRAM FOR FORMER FOSTER CHILDREN
Sponsor Statement

[House bill 209](#) relates to the establishment of a foster care transition program for transitioning certain state foster care recipients age 16 to 21.

This bill is necessary so that the state may continue to receive federal money to provide the support and services needed to assure that these young adults are able to manage their independence after they have reached the age of majority in foster care. Programs are in place for these individuals while they are in state foster care; this bill will make it possible to continue to provide support and services after they reach the age of majority as required by the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999.

This bill would direct the [Department of Health and Social Services](#) to design, develop, and implement a foster care transition program to provide support and services to young adults who have reached the age of 16 while in state foster care. The program may provide some or all of the following services to these young adults: education and vocational training, assistance in obtaining basic education and training, career and employment services, training in basic life skills, housing and utility assistance, mentoring and counseling, and other appropriate services to complement the efforts of these former state foster care recipients to achieve self-sufficiency.