

Government News: Federal/State File

Midwives and VPSOs subject of new measures signed into law by Governor Walter Hickel

Gov. Walter Hickel has signed into law the following measures recently passed by the legislature:

- **Senate Bill 91:** Allows medical assistance payments to be made to direct entry midwives performing services within the scope of their certification. Midwives are added to a list of health care professionals who may not be discriminated against under a group disability policy or group service

or indemnity type contract issued by a nonprofit corporation. This will provide an alternative to those who choose not to enter a hospital to give birth, but would rather use the services of a direct entry midwife;

- **House Bill 93:** Formally institutes the village public safety officer (VPSO) program in Alaska statutes as an official responsibility of the Department of Public

Safety. This will enable the department to adopt regulations establishing criteria for entry and participation in the program, and to implement training standards and uniform parameters for state-wide programs.

- **House Bill 114:** Authorizing advanced nurse practitioners to dispense drugs.