

**Alaska Public Health
Law Reform Pursuant to
the Turning Point Model
State Public Health Act:
Transforming National
Collaboration into State
Legislation**

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Objectives

1. Assess how the Turning Point Act is currently being used by state policy-makers in legislative reform initiatives;
2. Describe the effectiveness of the Turning Point Act as a means to promote public health through legal reforms at the state and local levels; and
3. Apply lessons learned from the Turning Point Act experience to future state legislative efforts.

**Alaska Public Health Law Reform Pursuant to
the Turning Point Act**

- **Background**
 - **Methods**
 - **Alaska Case Study**
 - **Analysis**
- Turning Point
 - Turning Point Collaborative
 - Model Public Health Act
 - Alaska Public Health Law Reform
 - Alaska's Role in the Turning Point Collaborative

Alaska Public Health Law Reform Pursuant to the Turning Point Act

- Background
 - **Methods**
 - Alaska Case Study
 - Analysis
- Case Study Method
 - Legislators, Bureaucrats, Advocates
 - Semi-Structured Interviews



Alaska Public Health Law Reform Pursuant to the Turning Point Act

- Background
 - Methods
 - **Alaska Case Study**
 - HB369/SB304
 - HB95/SB75
 - Analysis
- Publication of the Turning Point Act
 - ALPHA Advocacy for Reform
 - Democrats Call for Public Health Law Modernization Fails
 - Issue Raising Effort?
 - Administration Scuttle?

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- Background
 - Methods
 - **Alaska Case Study**
 - HB369/SB304
 - HB95/SB75
 - Analysis
- Driven and drafted by the Division of Public Health / Introduced by the Governor
 - Lawmaking Process
 - Legislative Hearings
 - Expert Testimony
 - Legislative Opposition

Turning Point vs. Governor's Bill

Subject:	HB 95 ("Governor's Bill")	Turning Point Act
Mandatory Testing or Examination	Section 18.15.375 "Epidemiological Investigation" (c)(2) Pursuant to an epidemiological investigation, the department may "require testing, examination, or screening of a nonconsenting individual ... only upon a finding that the individual has or may have been exposed to a contagious disease that poses a significant risk to the public health..."	Section 5.106 [c] "Mandatory Testing and Examination" [c] "The state or local public health agency may require testing or medical examination of any individual who has or may have been exposed to a contagious disease that poses a significant risk of danger to others or the public's health."
Medical Treatment	Section 18.15.380 "Medical Treatment" "A health care practitioner or public health agent who examines or treats an individual who has or may have been exposed to a contagious disease shall instruct the individual about the measures for preventing transmission of the disease and the need for treatment."	Section 5.107 "Compulsory Medical Treatment" "Any health care provider or public health agent who examines or treats an individual who has a contagious disease shall instruct the individual about (1) measures for preventing reinfection and spread of the disease; and (2) the need for treatment until the individual is no longer infected."
Information Security	Section 18.15.365 "Confidential Security Safeguards" The department "shall acquire, use, disclose, and store identifiable health information in a confidential manner that safeguards the security of the information and maintain the information in a physically and technologically secure environment."	Section 7.104 "Security Safeguards" "State and local public health agencies have a duty to acquire, use, disclose, and store identifiable health information in a confidential manner that safeguards the security of the information."

Transforming National Collaboration into State Legislation

- Background
- Methods
- Alaska Case Study
- **Analysis**
 - The Turning Point Experience
 - Politicization of Public Health
 - Bottom-Up vs. Top-Down Reform



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- Background
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 - **The Turning Point Experience**
 - Politicization of Public Health
 - Bottom-Up vs. Top-Down Reform
- Tested, Packaged Legislative Language
- Legitimacy
 - Drafting
 - Leadership
 - Legislative Process

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- **Analysis**
 - The Turning Point Experience
 - **Politicization of Public Health**
 - Bottom-Up vs. Top-Down Reform
- Public Health as “Nonpolitical”?
- Politics of Fear
 - Influenza (past and present)
 - SARS
 - Bioterrorism

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 - The Turning Point Experience
 - Politicization of Public Health
 - **Bottom-Up vs. Top-Down Reform**
- Failure of Minority/Activist Driven Legislation
- Success of Governor’s Bill
 - “Democratic bill by a Republican Governor”
 - Ability to work “behind closed doors/schedule hearings/provide expertise

Why and How States Are Updating Their Public Health Laws
