HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES DYSON, Smalley

SENATORS Halford, Leman, Taylor, Ellis

Introduced: 4/26/99
Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

Relating to substance abuse treatment for offenders in the criminal justice system.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS substance abuse, specifically the abuse of alcohol and illegal use of controlled substances, is a major contributing component in crimes in Alaska and the nation; and

WHEREAS substance abuse is a significant factor that interferes with the successful rehabilitation of persons convicted of crimes; and

WHEREAS lack of treatment of persons convicted of crimes results in an increased rate of recidivism with attending additional crimes and victims; and

WHEREAS repeat offenders place undue financial burden on the criminal justice system of the state;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the social and financial benefits that accrue to the state when persons convicted of crimes do not repeat those offenses; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that a consistent response to substance abuse by the criminal justice system will result in a decreased rate of recidivism; and be it
FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska may redirect and restructure resources to provide standardized screening and culturally appropriate substance abuse treatment in the corrections system; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Corrections and the Department of Law will provide sanctions for offenders who refuse to cooperate with and respond to court-ordered substance abuse treatment while such offenders are under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor; the Honorable Bruce Botelho, Attorney General; the Honorable Margaret Pugh, Commissioner, Department of Corrections; and the Honorable Karen Perdue, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services.