

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that a consistent
16 response to substance abuse by the criminal justice system will result in a decreased rate of
17 recidivism; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Alaska may redirect and restructure resources to provide
2 standardized screening and culturally appropriate substance abuse treatment in the corrections
3 system; and be it

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

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