

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2003

Source
CSHJR 27(STA)

Legislative
Resolve No.
28



Relating to support for a federal appropriation for expansion of the Anchorage Jail.

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

WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Corrections and the United States Marshals Service have identified the need for additional prison bed space in the state, including pretrial prison bed space for federal defendants in the Anchorage area; and

WHEREAS the United States Marshals Service currently incarcerates approximately 100 federal prisoners in the state and expects these numbers to grow in the coming years; and

WHEREAS the state currently contracts with the United States Marshals Service to provide 50 federal prisoner beds; the current contract with the United States Marshals Service is met or exceeded at all times; the Alaska Department of Corrections does not have enough prison bed capacity to expand the contract for federal prisoners, forcing Alaska pretrial federal defendants to be transported out of state; and

WHEREAS the United States Marshals Service transports Alaska federal prisoners to and from the SeaTac Federal Detention Center approximately six times a month, thereby increasing the costs to the federal government and increasing the risk to the public and

officers during these transports; and

WHEREAS the United States Marshals Service has expressed an interest in contracting for additional prison bed space with the Alaska Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS the nature of federal prisoners often requires them to be housed separately from their codefendants, requiring more housing options within the Alaska prison system and additional bed capacity statewide; and

WHEREAS the Federal Bureau of Prisons conducted a study on the feasibility of building a federal prison in Alaska and determined not to proceed further due to an insufficient number of Alaska prisoners within the Federal Bureau of Prisons system; and

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of all parties to expand the available prison bed space in the Anchorage area, thereby lowering the costs to the federal government, reducing the overcrowding on the current system both in Alaska and at the SeaTac Federal Detention Center, and improving public and officer safety through fewer transports; and

WHEREAS AS 33.30.025 requires the Alaska commissioner of corrections to notify each community council of the Department of Corrections' plans to locate a prison facility or contract for the operation of a facility within one-half mile of the community council's boundaries;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the proposed expansion of law enforcement activities throughout Alaska planned by the United States Marshals Service, the United States Attorney's office, and other federal criminal justice agencies operating in Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the United States Congress to appropriate the \$30,000,000 necessary to fund the expansion of the Anchorage Jail to house up to 200 Alaska federal prisoners; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Alaska commissioner of corrections to notify all community councils within one-half mile of the Anchorage Jail if the Department of Corrections plans to expand the jail to house additional federal prisoners, because such an expansion is within the spirit, if not the letter, of AS 33.30.025.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States

and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bill Frist, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas Daschle, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.