

HOUSE BILL NO. 52

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERTTULA

Introduced: 1/20/09

Referred: Judiciary, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act authorizing psychological counseling for jurors serving in criminal trials who**
2 **are traumatized by graphic evidence or testimony."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 12.45 is amended by adding a new section to article 1 to read:

5 **Sec. 12.45.018. Juror counseling following graphic evidence or testimony.**

6 (a) The trial judge may offer not more than 10 hours of post-trial psychological
7 counseling, without charge, to a juror or an alternate juror who serves on a trial jury in
8 a trial involving extraordinarily graphic, gruesome, or emotional evidence or
9 testimony.

10 (b) The counseling offered under (a) of this section applies only to a juror or
11 alternate juror who serves on a trial jury for a trial involving the following offenses:

12 (1) murder under AS 11.41.100 and 11.41.110;

13 (2) manslaughter under AS 11.41.120;

14 (3) criminally negligent homicide under AS 11.41.130;

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(4) felonious assault under AS 11.41.200 - 11.41.220;

(5) a sexual offense under AS 11.41.410 - 11.41.460.

(c) The counseling offered under (a) of this section

(1) must occur not later than 180 days after the jury is dismissed;

(2) may be provided by the court system, by a state agency, or by contract; and

(3) may be individual or group counseling.