

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MULDER, G.Davis, Navarre, Rokeberg, Brown

Introduced: 4/22/95

Referred: Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the Governor to direct the Department of Corrections to establish a
2 task force to study current and future department operations.

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

4 WHEREAS a growing number of people are being arrested, prosecuted, adjudicated,
5 and incarcerated in the state; and

6 WHEREAS the inmate population in the state's prisons has been steadily increasing
7 over the last several years; and

8 WHEREAS the inmate population in the state's prisons is expected to continue to
9 increase; and

10 WHEREAS several of the state's correctional facilities are in poor condition and in
11 need of substantial repair or replacement; and

12 WHEREAS the cost of operating the prisons and jails is steadily increasing; and

13 WHEREAS advancements in technology are providing new and innovative methods
14 of monitoring and detaining prisoners; and

15 WHEREAS the state's revenue is declining, and capital funding is becoming more
16 difficult to obtain; and

1 **WHEREAS** the private sector has shown significant interest and ability in constructing
2 and operating prison facilities;

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
4 Governor to direct the Department of Corrections to convene a task force to study current
5 operations and future options for the department, and to develop a comprehensive plan,
6 including options for private construction of prison facilities and private operation of prison
7 facilities; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force should be comprised of two members of
9 the Alaska State House of Representatives selected by the speaker of the house, two members
10 of the Alaska State Senate selected by the senate president, five representatives of the
11 executive branch selected by the Governor, one representative of the judicial branch selected
12 by the chief justice of the supreme court, and three representatives of the public familiar with
13 construction of large facilities or with operations of large organizations selected by the
14 commissioner of corrections; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force should contract with independent
16 consultants with expertise in private and public correction institutions; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force, using appropriate contractors, should
18 study the operations of the Department of Corrections and potential for changes in its facilities
19 and operations, including

20 (1) a cost benefit analysis of the Department of Corrections as it now exists;

21 (2) analysis of the department's population increases, workload changes, and
22 projections of future trends;

23 (3) examination of inmate classification, placement, custody, and programming
24 and their consequences for public safety;

25 (4) a forecast of capital construction needs; and

26 (5) analysis of the opportunities, benefits, and costs of contracting for private
27 construction and operation of prisons; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force is authorized to begin its work
29 immediately and should report its findings and recommendations to the legislature on or before
30 January 31, 1996.