

**CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19(FIN)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/4/95

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES MULDER, G.Davis, Navarre, Rokeberg, Brown

**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; and be it

7           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force should be comprised of two members of  
8 the Alaska State House of Representatives selected by the speaker of the house, two members  
9 of the Alaska State Senate selected by the senate president, five representatives of the  
10 executive branch selected by the Governor, one representative of the judicial branch selected  
11 by the chief justice of the supreme court, and three representatives of the public familiar with  
12 construction of large facilities or with operations of large organizations selected one each by  
13 the commissioner of corrections, the speaker of the house, and the senate president; and be  
14 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 preliminary findings and recommendations to the legislature  
30 on or before January 31, 1996, with a final report of its findings and recommendations due  
31 by August 31, 1996.