

HOUSE BILL NO. 47

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES BERKOWITZ, Dyson, Kemplen

Introduced: 1/19/99

Referred: Judiciary, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act instructing the Department of Corrections to study the principles involved
2 in restorative community justice and produce a plan for the development of a
3 restorative community justice approach for Alaska; and providing for an effective
4 date."

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

6 * **Section 1. FINDINGS.** The legislature finds that

7 (1) restorative community justice is an approach toward providing a criminal
8 justice system;

9 (2) restorative community justice is based on the following seven core values:

10 (A) crime is an offense against human relationships;

11 (B) victims and the community are central to the justice process;

12 (C) the first priority of the justice process is to assist victims;

13 (D) the second priority of the justice process is to restore the
14 community to the degree that restoration is possible;

1 (E) the offender has personal responsibility to victims and the
2 community for crimes committed;

3 (F) the offender will develop improved competency and understanding
4 as a result of the restorative community justice experience; and

5 (G) interested parties share responsibility for restorative community
6 justice through partnerships to achieve positive results;

7 (3) there are many practical applications of the principles and values of
8 restorative community justice, and some of those applications are already being used in
9 Alaska; and

10 (4) further study of the restorative community justice approach is necessary.

11 * **Sec. 2.** The Department of Corrections shall examine the restorative community justice
12 approach to criminal justice. The department shall review and assess the state's approach to
13 criminal justice as it relates to the restorative community justice approach. The department
14 shall identify those programs and practices of the state criminal justice system that fit within
15 a restorative community justice approach, shall identify those areas of the state criminal justice
16 system that do not fit within the parameters of a restorative community justice approach, and
17 shall identify how the areas could be changed to bring them within the restorative community
18 justice approach. Based upon the results of the examination, review, and assessment, the
19 department shall develop a plan to apply the restorative community justice approach to the
20 state's criminal justice system. The department shall deliver the results of the examination,
21 review, and assessment and the plan to the presiding officer of each house of the Alaska State
22 Legislature by June 1, 2000.

23 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1999.