

HOUSE BILL NO. 451

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

Introduced: 2/16/04

Referred: Judiciary, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to therapeutic courts; and providing for an effective date."**

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

3 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska enacted in sec. 1(b), ch. 64, SLA
4 2001, is amended to read:

5 (b) The Alaska Court System shall establish two pilot sites for therapeutic
6 courts for alcohol- and drug-addicted offenders in Anchorage and Bethel; the
7 Anchorage therapeutic court shall commence on the effective date of this section; the
8 Bethel therapeutic court shall commence on January 2, 2002; the pilot programs shall
9 end **June 30, 2006** [THREE YEARS AFTER THE DATE EACH COURT
10 COMMENCES]. The Alaska Court System will designate one superior court judge in
11 Anchorage and one superior court judge in Bethel to preside over the therapeutic
12 courts. Under the leadership of these judges, all parties involved in the
13 implementation of the therapeutic court process shall regularly meet to consult about
14 the conduct and improvement of the process. The pilot programs shall be
15 implemented by the joint efforts of the Alaska Court System, the Department of Law,

1 the Public Defender Agency, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Health
2 and Social Services, and other agencies in accordance with a mutually agreed-upon
3 plan. To the extent feasible, the therapeutic courts shall use existing public agencies,
4 medical and treatment services, housing, and other public, private, and nonprofit
5 community services; the pilot program in Bethel shall also consult and coordinate
6 services with municipal and other local entities to facilitate the successful reintegration
7 of offenders into municipalities and other locales outside of Bethel. Each therapeutic
8 court shall be adapted to fit the available local resources and cultural traditions.

9 * **Sec. 2.** Sections 3, 5(b), and (6), ch. 64, SLA 2001, are repealed.

10 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).