

AMENDMENT # 9

**Offered in:** Senate  
**By:** Senator Fred Dyson  
**To:** CSSB 221(FIN) (Version 25-GS2007\O)

**Agency:** Department of Corrections  
**Component:** Offender Habilitation Programs

**Project:** Chaplaincy Program

**Amount:** \$128,000 General Funds

**Explanation:**

This amendment would establish chaplain positions for Anchorage and Seward in order to meet the increased demand for: training and oversight of volunteer clergy and lay religious volunteers; prisoner requests for spiritual counseling from chaplains and for increased religious services; religious diversity requests from prisoner population; and death notifications.

As the state faces a rising prison population, one of the most obvious resolutions is to reduce the recidivism rate. In fact, one of the Department of Corrections' primary Desired Results is to "reduce the percent of crimes committed by offenders within 1-year after release from institutions or supervision." Since FY03 the department has realized a 7.7% decrease in recidivism for offenders within the first year after release. The faith-based communities have been good at providing clergy on a voluntary basis. However, supervision is needed to: coordinate activities; enhance the program; ensure adequate support to inmates of both sexes; and provide a more reliable, consistent source of religious support.