



AMENDMENT #6

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: CSHB 65(FIN)

Offered by:
Rep. Josephson
Rep. Gruenberg
Rep. Kerttula
Rep. Gava
Tuck

- 1 Page 40, line 13:
- 2 Delete "2,794,900"
- 3 Insert "3,483,900"
- 4 Delete "2,084,900"
- 5 Insert "2,773,900"
- 6
- 7 Page 40, line 14:
- 8 Delete "2,794,900"
- 9 Insert "3,483,900"

Kangas
Dunne
Guttenberg
J. Kreiss-Tankins

Recidivism in Alaska's Felony

Executive Summary

The Alaska Judicial Council found that graduates of the Anchorage Felony Driving Under the Influence, Anchorage Felony Drug, and Bethel Therapeutic Courts were rearrested and re-convicted far less frequently than comparison offenders. The Council followed graduates for one year after they completed their program and tracked comparison offenders for one year after they were released from serving their sentence. Therapeutic court graduates were also re-arrested far less frequently than a baseline sample of Alaskan offenders charged with felonies in 1999, discussed in the Council's January 2007 report, *Criminal Recidivism in Alaska*. Findings included:

- The longer the participants stayed in the program, the less likely they were to recidivate even if they did not graduate.
- 54% of the participants in these project graduated.
- 13% of graduates were re-arrested within one year after completing a therapeutic court program compared to a 32% re-arrest rate for comparison offenders and a 38% re-arrest rate for offenders charged with felonies in 1999.
- Participants who were discharged from the programs or who left voluntarily had about the same rate of recidivism as the offenders charged with felonies in 1999.
- Older participants were less likely to be re-arrested than younger participants.
- Participants in the Anchorage Felony DUI Court were less likely to be re-arrested than those in the Anchorage Felony Drug Court and the Bethel Therapeutic Court.
- No participants in the programs who were re-convicted within the first year were convicted of an offense at a more serious level than the one on which they entered the therapeutic courts. None were convicted of a Drug or Sexual offense. In contrast, 3% of the comparison offenders were convicted of offenses at a more serious level. In the Council's companion report on recidivism among 1999 offenders, about 15% of most types of offenders were convicted of offenses at a more serious level.
- Native participants responded as well to the therapeutic court programs as did Caucasian participants. Blacks and other ethnicities did not do as well as Caucasian participants.
- The Council recommended that the state should develop further information about the costs and benefits of therapeutic court programs; should explore the reasons for the relative success of Native participants in the programs; and should determine why ethnic groups other than Natives and Caucasians did not do as well in the programs.