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Referred: Health, Welfare
and Education

1 IN THE HOUSE

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2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to a study of drug abuse in
6 Alaska.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS Alaska law currently contains provisions making the possession
9 of, or sale of a multitude of drugs illegal, including not only those covered
10 under the Uniform Narcotic Drug Act, but also many varieties of drugs
11 currently classified as depressant, hallucinogenic or stimulant drugs; and

12 WHEREAS the penalties prescribed for violation of our drug laws are
13 generally some of the most severe in the criminal law; and

14 WHEREAS the problem of "drug abuse" is one that is increasing in Alaska
15 as well as in all areas of the country; and

16 WHEREAS currently there are many differing reports either being worked
17 on or that have been published which deal with the problems of drug abuse;
18 and

19 WHEREAS many of these reports are conflicting in nature and there is
20 violent disagreement in the nation as to whether the use or possession of
21 certain drugs should be a subject for the criminal law and whether or not
22 existing penalties are appropriate for the activities prohibited by the law;
23 and

24 WHEREAS not only because of the life-long hardships which must be faced
25 by a person convicted of any crime but also because of the generally harsh
26 penalties provided for activities connected with drug use, it is extremely
27 important to our citizens that the necessary information is gathered which
28 would enable the Legislature to make educated decisions concerning the
29 retention of current drug prohibitions in our criminal law, and if so, that

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1 the penalties are realistic in relation to the activity sought to be pro-
2 hibited and to penalties for other prescribed conduct;

3 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the Legislative Council
4 is directed to gather scientific information available relating to "drug
5 abuse" with the purpose of making recommendations to the Seventh Legislature
6 Second Session, on the retention or nonretention of our criminal laws
7 pertaining to all drug activities and the report shall also make recommenda-
8 tions as to any changes that may be considered advisable in the attendant
9 penalties.

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