

Introduced: 4/2/76  
Referred: Health, Education and  
Social Services

BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
BY REQUEST

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE -- SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the appointment of William H.  
6 Huston as director of the division of  
7 corrections.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

9 WHEREAS the position of director of the division of corrections is  
10 vacant; and

11 WHEREAS the Commissioner of Health and Social Services is receiving  
12 applications for that position from persons inside and outside the state; and

13 WHEREAS effective performance of the duties of that position requires a  
14 comprehensive knowledge of the workings of the Alaska prison system, broad  
15 experience in prison administration and law enforcement, and a desire to en-  
16 hance the state's correctional program; and

17 WHEREAS William H. Huston is presently acting director of the division  
18 of corrections and an applicant for the position of director; and

19 WHEREAS William H. Huston has experience in law enforcement, having  
20 served in the Juneau Police Department between 1961 and 1963, where he super-  
21 vised investigative personnel and criminal investigation and also conducted  
22 in-service training; and

23 WHEREAS William H. Huston has long experience in the administration of  
24 prisons in Alaska, beginning in 1963 through 1964 with the supervision of the  
25 Juneau State Jail while he was still deputy chief of police of the Juneau  
26 Police Department; then, between 1964 and 1967, he supervised the transition  
27 from federal to state administration of the Anchorage Maximum Security  
28 Institution as superintendent of that institution; and then he served as  
29 superintendent of the Southeastern Regional Correctional Institution until

1 appointment as acting director of the division of corrections; and

2 WHEREAS William H. Huston has comprehensive knowledge of the workings of  
3 the Alaska prison system and has been responsible for the implementation of  
4 many of its programs, having initiated work projects for inmates confined in  
5 the Juneau State Jail from 1963 through 1964; having initiated state adminis-  
6 tration of the Anchorage Maximum Security Institution between 1964 and 1967,  
7 which included the hiring, training, and supervision of new state employees  
8 to replace federal Bureau of Prisons personnel who were transferring out of  
9 the state; having established a training program for new officers and imple-  
10 mented statewide regulations governing all facets of the operation of that  
11 jail when serving as superintendent of the Juneau State Jail between 1967 and  
12 1969; also having developed and implemented a cross-index filing system for  
13 all inmate records and having supervised the operation of this system in the  
14 Juneau institution; having developed the uniform institutional administrative  
15 records system and implemented that system in Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Anchorage  
16 and Juneau; having supervised the implementation of the first inmate voca-  
17 tional training program when serving as superintendent of the Juneau State  
18 Jail between 1967 and 1969; having implemented, while serving as superin-  
19 tendent of the Southeastern Regional Correctional Institution between 1969  
20 and appointment as acting director, a staff training program which was later  
21 used at the institution at Eagle River, an auto mechanics training program  
22 which has run for three years, a welding training program which included  
23 instruction of non-inmate persons, an agricultural experimentation program  
24 and academic education program which have raised the general inmate educa-  
25 tional level to 11.25 years; finally, Mr. Huston has served on the out-of-  
26 state classification committee, bringing him into direct contact with those  
27 Alaskan prisoners incarcerated out of state and the institutions that hold  
28 these prisoners; and

29 WHEREAS William H. Huston has demonstrated a desire to enhance the

1 state's correctional program, having contributed detailed input in the  
2 formulation of the regulations in the Alaska Administrative Code governing  
3 the administration of the state's prisons, having participated in the design  
4 of the Eagle River facility and the planned facility at Ketchikan, having  
5 prepared and recommended legislation for the creation of a prison industry  
6 program, being the chairman or a member of the legislative committee of the  
7 Alaska Peace Officers Association which was successful in securing early  
8 retirement benefits for correctional officers equivalent to those benefits  
9 enjoyed by policemen and firemen, and having served as special advisor on  
10 corrections to the Social and Rehabilitation Committee of the Governor's  
11 Criminal Justice Commission; and

12 WHEREAS William H. Huston is a dynamic, vigorous and concerned public  
13 servant;

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Senate that it respectfully requests  
15 the Governor to direct the Commissioner of Health and Social Services to  
16 cease accepting applications for the position of director of the division of  
17 corrections and to appoint William H. Huston to that post.  
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