

Introduced: 4/7/78
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 98

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the underutilization of hos-
6 pital beds in light of the need for de-
7 toxification facilities.

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

9 WHEREAS alcoholics undergoing detoxification often need the care avail-
10 able in medical facilities, particularly in the first three to five days
11 when complications such as delirium tremens and heart problems are likely to
12 arise; and

13 WHEREAS alcoholics in need of such care are often refused admission to
14 medical facilities, in spite of occupancy rates for these facilities which
15 typically vary between 20 and 85 per cent; and

16 WHEREAS such underutilization of beds is not only wasteful but downright
17 inefficient, due to the fact that the costs of care of alcoholism may often
18 be recovered from the Veterans Administration, private health plans, and a
19 number of other sources of payment; and

20 WHEREAS full utilization of hospital beds will reduce the amount of
21 state dollars needed to build detoxification centers; and

22 WHEREAS a refusal to admit a person needing detoxification to a health
23 facility often consigns the person to detoxification in a state or municipal
24 detention facility;

25 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges medical facilities
26 receiving federal funds to admit for care persons in need of detoxification.

27 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the appropriate authorities
28 in the Department of Health and Social Services for distribution to medical
29 facilities throughout the state.

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