

Introduced: 2/13/79  
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SACKETT AND STIMSON

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Urging the Judicial Council to com-

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plete its review and make recommenda-

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tions in the matter of judicial

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sentencing practices.

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

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WHEREAS the Alaska Judicial Council conducted a study including 1,433

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sentences in felony cases rendered in the Superior Courts at Anchorage,

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Fairbanks and Juneau between 1974 and 1976; and

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WHEREAS it was the conclusion of that report that Alaska Natives and

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Blacks apparently received longer sentences and were denied probation more

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often than other defendants who had been convicted of the same crimes under

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similar circumstances, and who had substantially similar criminal records;

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully

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requests the Alaska Judicial Council to extend and complete its report on the

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sentencing practices of Alaska courts by

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(1) compiling and analyzing data on all felony sentences rendered

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between August, 1976 and the present date, including sentences for convic-

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tions in the superior courts sitting in communities which were not covered in

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the earlier study, including rural Alaska, to determine whether the present

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findings of apparent racial disparity of sentencing also obtain in other

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locations and in the years since August, 1976;

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(2) expanding the data collected and analyzed to include sentenc-

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ing practices of the district courts;

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(3) examining sentencing records of the superior and district

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courts to determine whether there is a pattern to sentencing based on race;

1           (4) modifying and expanding upon the research methods, when neces-  
2 sary, in order to determine whether the apparent disadvantages suffered by  
3 Alaska Natives and Blacks as evidenced in the Judicial Council's findings may  
4 be attributable, wholly or partially, to decisions of other criminal justice  
5 agencies which advise or inform the courts and which may help shape the  
6 ultimate sentence;

7           (5) identifying all points within the criminal justice system at  
8 which a defendant may be disadvantaged on account of his race; and

9           (6) working closely with representatives of the minorities  
10 affected as well as with criminal justice agency representatives and per-  
11 sonnel, making recommendations for positive remedies to correct inequities  
12 which may be suffered by minority members in the administration of criminal  
13 justice.

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