

Original sponsor: Clocksin

Offered: 4/27/81
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 451 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a prisoner treatment program; and
7 providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds that
10 persons who are convicted of violent crimes or sexual offenses are likely to
11 commit acts of violence in the future. Physical and sexual violence is
12 learned behavior which can be altered through counseling and rehabilitation.
13 In order to protect the health, welfare, and safety of all persons in the
14 state, it is necessary to provide treatment to persons convicted of violent
15 crimes or sexual offenses or who exhibit violent behavior before they are
16 released into the community.

17 (b) It is the purpose of this Act to

18 (1) establish a program of treatment for persons convicted of
19 violent crimes or sexual offenses who are serving terms of imprisonment;

20 (2) help control violent behavior by providing continuing treat-
21 ment for persons released from imprisonment who have been convicted of vio-
22 lent crimes or sexual offenses;

23 (3) authorize the Department of Health and Social Services to
24 admit persons convicted of offenses who exhibit violent behavior into the
25 program when the department determines the treatment will be beneficial.

26 * Sec. 2. AS 33.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

27 ARTICLE 4. PRISONER TREATMENT PROGRAM.

28 Sec. 33.30.400. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. There is established the
29 prisoner treatment program to provide treatment to prisoners in state

1 prison facilities. The program shall include

2 (1) education about violent behavior and methods of control-
3 ling violent behavior such as stress management training, anger manage-
4 ment training, assertiveness training, and sex education;

5 (2) individual and group therapy and counseling;

6 (3) assistance in preparing for release from the prison
7 facility;

8 (4) counseling after release or providing for counseling
9 after release from other agencies.

10 Sec. 33.30.410. QUALIFICATIONS. (a) To qualify for admission to
11 the prisoner treatment program a person shall

12 (1) meet qualifications established by the department; and

13 (2) be serving a sentence in a state prison facility for
14 conviction of a felony under AS 11.41; or

15 (3) be serving a sentence in a state prison facility and
16 have a history of at least one prior conviction in this or another
17 jurisdiction of an offense having elements substantially identical to a
18 felony under AS 11.41.

19 (b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, a person may be accepted
20 into the prisoner treatment program at the discretion of the department
21 and his participation in the program may be terminated at any time.

22 Sec. 33.30.420. DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT. The department shall

23 (1) administer the prisoner treatment program;

24 (2) enter into contracts for professional services with
25 providers of community counseling and treatment services;

26 (3) provide information on the prisoner treatment program to
27 members of the criminal justice system including judges, attorneys
28 involved in the practice of criminal law, probation officers, and
29 parole officers so that the program will be considered for recommenda-

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tion as a manner of treatment in sentencing reports under AS 12.55.-
025(a)(4);

(4) adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions
of AS 33.30.400 - 33.30.420;

(5) present a report on the prisoner treatment program to
the legislature within 30 days of the beginning of each regular session.

* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1981.