

Original sponsor: Health, Education and  
Social Services Committee

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
2 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55 (HESS)  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION  
5 Designating May as Alcohol Awareness  
6 Month.  
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
8 WHEREAS alcoholism is a chronic, progressive, and potentially fatal  
9 disease characterized by tolerance and physical dependency or pathological  
10 organ changes, or both, that are the direct or indirect consequences of the  
11 alcohol ingested; and  
12 WHEREAS alcoholism and alcohol abuse occur in every socio-economic  
13 group, although the problems may manifest themselves differently across  
14 groups; and  
15 WHEREAS alcoholism is one of the most serious public health problems  
16 in the United States today; and  
17 WHEREAS among the 18,300,000 adult "heavier drinkers," those consuming  
18 more than 14 drinks per week, 12,100,000 have one or more symptoms of  
19 alcoholism, an increase of 8.2 percent since 1980; and  
20 WHEREAS Alaska ranks fourth nationally in per capita consumption of  
21 alcohol for those 14 and older; and  
22 WHEREAS 55 percent of all crime in the state is estimated to be alco-  
23 hol related and 90 percent of all child abuse cases in the state are alco-  
24 hol related; and  
25 WHEREAS alcohol is the most widely used and abused drug in America;  
26 alcohol abuse accounts for approximately 98,000 deaths annually and is  
27 known to cause or contribute to other fatal illnesses, including cardiac  
28 myopathy, hypertensive diseases, pneumonia, and several types of cancer;  
29 and

1 WHEREAS chronic brain injury caused by alcohol is second only to  
2 Alzheimer's disease as a known cause of mental deterioration in adults; and

3 WHEREAS children of alcoholics have four times greater risk of devel-  
4 oping alcoholism than children of nonalcoholics; and

5 WHEREAS about 65 out of every 100 persons in the United States will be  
6 in an alcohol related automobile accident in their lifetimes and alcohol  
7 related highway deaths are the number one killer of people between the ages  
8 of 15 and 24; and

9 WHEREAS alcohol is a contributing factor in at least 15,000 fatal and  
10 6,000,000 nonfatal injuries in nonhighway settings and alcoholics are 10  
11 times more likely to die from fires than nonalcoholics, 5 to 13 times more  
12 likely to die from falls, and commit suicide from 6 to 15 times more fre-  
13 quently than the general population; and

14 WHEREAS Alaska has the highest rate of birth defects due to fetal  
15 alcohol syndrome; and

16 WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome is the third leading cause of birth  
17 defects with accompanying mental retardation, and the only preventable  
18 cause among the top three causes of birth defects;

19 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature designates May 1988  
20 as "Alcohol Awareness Month" and that all citizens of the state are urged  
21 to become more aware of the detrimental effects of alcohol abuse.