

Offered: 3/22/88
Referred: Rules

5-1439B

Original sponsors: Binkley, Hensley,
Zharoff, et al.

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35 (State Affairs)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Relating to Alcohol-Related Birth De-
6 fects Awareness Week.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
8 WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome is the number two cause in the United
9 States of birth defects accompanied by mental retardation, and the only
10 preventable one; and
11 WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome can result in serious health problems,
12 such as heart defects, growth deficiencies associated with mental retarda-
13 tion, and developmental disabilities that retard a child's ability to walk
14 and speak; and
15 WHEREAS pregnant women who consume alcohol also risk having babies
16 with a series of other health problems, called fetal alcohol effects, which
17 include developmental delays, learning disabilities, and increased irri-
18 tability and hyperactivity; and
19 WHEREAS alcohol-related birth defects have only recently been dis-
20 covered to be a major health problem, and many questions regarding them
21 remain unanswered; and
22 WHEREAS the latest research shows that children with fetal alcohol
23 syndrome and fetal alcohol effects are unable to live totally independent
24 lives; and
25 WHEREAS the research has also shown that additional children of a
26 woman who has previously given birth to a child with an alcohol-related
27 birth defect will be born with alcohol-related birth defects in successive-
28 ly severe degrees if the woman continues to drink during pregnancy; and
29 WHEREAS, without exception, mothers of infants born with fetal alcohol

1 syndrome consumed alcohol during pregnancy; and

2 WHEREAS alcohol-related birth defects can be prevented if pregnant
3 women and women who plan to become pregnant abstain from alcohol consump-
4 tion; and

5 WHEREAS the Surgeon General has issued an advisory that pregnant women
6 and women who plan to become pregnant should not consume alcohol;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
8 the Governor to proclaim May 8 - 14, 1988, Alcohol-Related Birth Defects
9 Awareness Week, and to request that schools, health care organizations and
10 practitioners, and other public and private agencies and individuals ob-
11 serve the week with appropriate activities.