

1 IN THE SENATE

BY RODEY

2

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the use of informed consent

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by dentists when they insert dental

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fillings that contain mercury.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

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WHEREAS it is a common dental practice in the state to use an amalgam  
10 of materials for dental fillings; and

11 WHEREAS this dental amalgam is thought by most persons to be made only  
12 of silver but its composition is actually 50 percent mercury; and

13 WHEREAS some studies have shown that toxic mercury vapors can leak  
14 from the fillings into a patient's blood system and lead to mercury poison-  
15 ing, particularly in chemically sensitive or allergic persons; and

16 WHEREAS mercury sensitivity can result in numerous medical and psychi-  
17 atric problems; and

18 WHEREAS dental patients should have the right to choose which mate-  
19 rials are used for their dental fillings, but they often lack basic infor-  
20 mation from the dentist that would help them make an informed choice;

21 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate respectfully requests the Governor to  
22 direct the Board of Dental Examiners to report to the legislature by the  
23 10th day of the Second Session of the Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature  
24 its recommendations on the manner in which dentists should inform their  
25 patients that

26 (1) mercury is contained in most dental filling material;

27 (2) mercury in fillings can have toxic effects on some persons:

28 (3) there are alternative materials that could be used for  
29 dental fillings that could have other effects on the person; and

1 (4) they have the right to insist that an alternative material  
2 be used.