

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 12

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/29/92

Referred: Health, Education & Social Services, Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to inhalant abuse.

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

3 WHEREAS the act of inhaling toxic vapors is increasing by the youth of Alaska; and

4 WHEREAS the products used for inhaling are found in almost every home, school, and work
5 place; and

6 WHEREAS inhalant abuse has reached epidemic proportions in Alaska with a rate of almost four
7 times the national average; and

8 WHEREAS inhalant abuse is a peer-oriented and peer-perpetuated activity and the peak period
9 for this activity is between 12 and 13 years of age; and

10 WHEREAS inhalant abusers can suffer nerve damage to the brain, lose lung capacity, and lose
11 ability to hear as well as lose the ability to think, reason, and remember; and

12 WHEREAS inhalants are considered to be one of the "Gateway Drugs," leading to the dangers
13 of deepening drug involvement in subsequent years; and

14 WHEREAS the need for knowledge and prevention of inhalant abuse is becoming greater;

15 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully requests the Governor to
16 direct the Alaska division of alcoholism and drug abuse and the Department of Law to work with the
17 Alaska Medical Association, the Alaska for Drug-Free Youth, the regional health corporations, the

1 Substance Abuse Directors Association, the Alaska Council on the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug
2 Abuse, and the Association of Rural Alcohol and Drug Abuse Providers to determine the most
3 appropriate means of model legislation that would promote awareness and prevention of inhalant abuse,
4 provide for intervention by enforcement officials, and facilitate placement of a minor in an appropriate
5 facility for education or treatment; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that this effort be made within existing budget resources.