

SENATE BILL NO. 296

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR MENARD

Introduced: 5/15/91
Referred: Judiciary, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing the Criminal Justice Planning Task Force; and providing for an
2 effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

5 (1) the level, nature, speed of performance of services, and responsibilities of criminal
6 justice organizations vary throughout the state;

7 (2) an imprecise division of criminal justice responsibilities among the levels and types
8 of governments in the state seems to be producing inequities in criminal justice services and costs to
9 citizens;

10 (3) the data and reports available on crime and the administration of justice in the state
11 are not adequate for criminal justice policy development, program planning, and meaningful evaluation;

12 (4) following a decline in crime rates in the state during the mid-1980s, crime,
13 particularly crime associated with hate, drugs, violence, commerce, and natural resources, appears to be
14 rising throughout the state;

1 (5) there is a public perception that the performance and effectiveness of the state's
2 criminal justice system are diminishing in some areas of the state;

3 (6) over the past 10 years, state and local per capita expenditures in the state for the
4 administration of justice, including civil matters, have been approximately two times the level of the state
5 and local expenditures on the administration of justice in the next highest state;

6 (7) organized municipalities are not under an obligation to the state to provide or fund
7 criminal justice services, and most of those that are currently performing these services are encountering
8 difficulties in providing financial resources to support their current levels of operation;

9 (8) despite the interrelatedness of criminal justice operations, the state has never
10 conducted a comprehensive assessment of criminal justice facilities in the state or developed a facilities
11 plan for maximizing the operational efficiency of the system and minimizing the costs; and

12 (9) the last comprehensive evaluation of issues related to crime and the administration
13 of the criminal justice system was published in 1978.

14 * Sec. 2. PURPOSES. The purposes of the Criminal Justice Planning Task Force are to

15 (1) define the nature and seriousness of crime and criminal justice problems throughout
16 the state;

17 (2) assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in addressing
18 its obligations and satisfying the needs and preferences of the people of the state;

19 (3) develop recommendations for improving the state's capacity for rational policy
20 development, planning and coordination, resource allocation, and funding responsibilities related to the
21 criminal justice system and its administration;

22 (4) develop proposals for increasing the organization and management efficiency and
23 effectiveness of criminal justice system operations to ensure that the needs and preferences of citizens
24 throughout the state are served in an optimal manner; and

25 (5) develop recommendations on long-range policy and funding contingencies.

26 * Sec. 3. CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING TASK FORCE. (a) The Criminal Justice Planning
27 Task Force is established in the University of Alaska Justice Center and shall consist of the following
28 members:

29 (1) two members of the senate appointed by the president of the senate, one of whom
30 shall be designated by the president as co-chair;

31 (2) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house,

1 one of whom shall be designated by the speaker as co-chair;
2 (3) one member associated with the University of Alaska Justice Center and selected by
3 the chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage;
4 (4) the commissioner of public safety and the commissioner of corrections, or their
5 designees;
6 (5) a representative of the court system selected by the chief justice of the Alaska
7 Supreme Court;
8 (6) a representative of the Department of Law appointed by the governor;
9 (7) a representative of the public defender agency appointed by the governor;
10 (8) a representative of organized labor representing public safety workers who is
11 appointed by the executive president of the Alaska State AFL-CIO;
12 (9) a person appointed by the governor to represent municipalities that exercise police
13 powers;
14 (10) a person appointed by the governor to represent municipalities that do not exercise
15 police powers; and
16 (11) a representative of the Alaska Association Chiefs of Police who is selected by the
17 president of the association.

18 (b) The members of the task force are entitled to receive per diem and travel expenses
19 authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

20 (c) The task force shall conduct at least one public hearing in each judicial district of the state.

21 * Sec. 4. DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE. The task force shall

22 (1) solicit relevant information from professional organizations, governmental agencies,
23 Native groups, members of the public, and other productive sources, and conduct policy, administrative,
24 and organizational surveys to acquire data needed for analyzing the problems, goals, policies, structures,
25 and operations related to crime and the administration of justice in the state;

26 (2) assess the nature and seriousness of crime and criminal justice problems throughout
27 the state and the adequacy of reporting systems and data bases related to those areas;

28 (3) catalog and analyze public policies related to the responsibilities and organization of
29 the criminal justice system to ensure public safety and the administration of justice and make
30 recommendations concerning these policies;

31 (4) identify and describe the existing criminal justice system, including its structure,

1 processes, workload, production, the problem areas related to its organization and operation, and the
2 sources, levels, and allocation of its resources;

3 (5) define the nature of essential criminal justice services and the minimum level of these
4 services that must be provided in the state;

5 (6) recommend the division of fiscal and operational responsibilities of various levels of
6 government related to the provision of both essential and nonessential criminal justice services;

7 (7) evaluate the current funding arrangements and alternatives, and recommend the
8 arrangement that will provide adequate funding for at least the minimal service level required while
9 providing the possibility for service variations consistent with local citizen and community preferences;

10 (8) develop proposals for improving the policy development, planning, coordination,
11 organization, and operations of the criminal justice system to maximize its efficiency and effectiveness
12 in accomplishing its responsibilities and optimizing citizen satisfaction with its services and performance;
13 and

14 (9) develop short-term and long-range policy and funding plans.

15 * Sec. 5. REPORTS. The task force shall submit a preliminary report to the legislature and the
16 governor by September 15, 1993, and a final report to the legislature and the governor by January 10,
17 1994. The task force shall include in these reports specific findings and prioritized recommendations
18 for legislation, policy changes, and funding levels.

19 * Sec. 6. This Act is repealed June 30, 1994.

20 * Sec. 7. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).