

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR KERTTULA

Introduced: 1/22/91
Referred: Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the expansion of the youth courts currently used in Anchorage to other areas
2 of the state.

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 WHEREAS the Anchorage Youth Court is a "court" in which the roles of attorneys, judges,
5 bailiffs, clerks, and jurors are filled by young people between the ages of 12 and 18; and

6 WHEREAS "defendants" before the Anchorage Youth Court are afforded a chance to receive
7 a trial by their peers without receiving a criminal or juvenile record for their alleged wrongdoing; and

8 WHEREAS defendants "convicted" by the Anchorage Youth Court are frequently "sentenced"
9 to community work service, thus providing a valuable benefit for the Municipality of Anchorage; and

10 WHEREAS the Anchorage Youth Court provides an opportunity for youths who believe
11 themselves to be wrongfully accused of committing offenses, but who cannot afford counsel to contest
12 the charges, to receive a fair hearing at reasonable cost; and

13 WHEREAS the Anchorage Youth Court provides suitable punishment for juvenile lawbreakers
14 who might not receive such punishment through the regular court system because of that system's lack
15 of resources; and

16 WHEREAS the Anchorage Youth Court has been funded by the Anchorage Bar Association and

1 the Young Lawyers Section of the Anchorage Bar Association; and

2 **WHEREAS** other communities around the state could benefit from the establishment of youth
3 courts like the Anchorage Youth Court;

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the Alaska Court System and
5 the Alaska Bar Association to assist in the expansion of the youth courts into other communities of the
6 state.

7 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the administrative director of the Alaska Court System
8 and the executive director of the Alaska Bar Association.