

HCR

7

House Judiciary Committee
February 7, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. by Chairman, Gardiner. Members present were Gardiner, Miles, Dankworth, Eliason, Specking and Rudd. Mr. Brown was absent.

HB 27 Removing the exemption of banks from anti-trust law HB
27

The committee had considered and heard testimony on this bill at a previous meeting. Mrs. Rudd moved that HB 27 be moved out of committee. The motion carried 3-2, so the bill was moved out.

HB 60 Compulsory School Attendance HB
60

The committee reviewed the committee substitute that had been submitted for this bill. After a minor amendment in wording, Mr. Specking moved that the committee substitute for the bill be moved out of committee. There being no objection, this was done.

HB 127 Penalties for Driving While Intoxicated HB
127

Mr. Meekins was here to testify on this bill, for which he is a sponsor. Questions were asked of Mr. Meeking and a general discussion followed.

Bill Huston, Director of the Division of Corrections, was here to present a position paper on this bill.

Mr. Specking moved that the bill be amended to specify that the imprisonment had to occur on consecutive days, so that offenders couldn't be imprisoned at their convenience, i.e. on weekends. The motion carried.

Mrs. Rudd moved that HB 127 be moved out of committee. The motion carried and this was done.

HCR 7 Requesting the Judicial Council to investigate the
prison system

HCR
7

Mr. Bradley was here to testify on this resolution, for which he is a sponsor.

Mr. Huston, Director of the Division of Corrections, was here to present a position paper on the bill.

After some discussion, the committee decided that Mr. Bradley, the Division of Corrections, and the Judicial Council should all get together to talk this over and determine how the study would be done.

HCR 7 was set aside for the time being.

HCR 17 Conducting business of district courts in the evening

HCR
17

Mr. Bradley testified on this resolution, for which he is a sponsor.

Mr. Rudd moved that the wording "in the evening" be replaced with "after normal working hours" (lines 6,17,19). The motion carried.

It was moved that lines 13 and 14 be deleted. The motion carried.

It was suggested that the wording on line 18 "direct the district courts" be perhaps changed after a fiscal note for this resolution had been received, and after the committee was further aware of what the courts would be "directed" to do.

HCR 17 was set aside until the receipt of a fiscal note.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

POSITION PAPER
HCR NO. 7

"Requesting the Judicial Council to investigate the prison system."

The Department of Health and Social Services recognizes that a positive answer to significantly reduce the high incidence and growth of crime in our society continues to elude the finest minds in the field of penology. Almost every conceivable preventative and rehabilitative program has been tried, tested, abandoned, modified and tried again without significant results. The rise in crime rates is not peculiar to Alaska; it is a national phenomenon.

The small population of Alaska and its geography offers some particular advantages for crime control. However, an overwhelming disadvantage is the lack of sufficient funds to conduct broad crime prevention, and rehabilitation, such as inmate industries programs where meaningful employment and job skills can be developed. The present Division of Corrections' administrators goals are to provide,

1. protection of the public;
2. humane treatment;
3. mandatory services required by law, and
4. necessary and constructive services, within budgetary and facility limitations, to prisoners who need and request them.

The Division of Corrections can, by simple comparison, show positive results, particularly, in the area of a number one concern - protection of the public. The incidents of escapes have been dramatically reduced during the past year.

The high number of escapes, as well as serious crimes, committed by some of the escapees in 1975 prompted the Governor's Task Force investigation into the Division of Corrections. A special Technical Assistance Team, who were selected for their expertise in the corrections field from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, were hired to assist the Task Force.

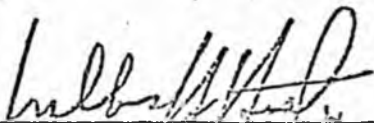
The recommendations resulting from the investigation are in the process of being implemented; many are already completed.

There will always be conflicting opinions on what should be the major role and purpose of the prison system. The state constitution spells it out as, "reformation and the need to protect the public."

No other segment of the Criminal Justice System comes under more public scrutiny or investigation than that of corrections. Public confidence will continue to be at its lowest ebb unless the system is given the opportunity

POSITION PAPER/Department of Health and Social Services

between investigations to make some accomplishments mandated by law, and those assigned executively as the result of previous special investigative recommendations.

Recommended: 
William H. Houston, Director
Division of Corrections

1/29/75
Date

Concurrence: _____
Commissioner, Dept. of
Health & Social Services

Date

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TENTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. HCR No. 7

Title Requesting the Judicial Council to Investigate The Prison System

Requested by Bradley, Cotton, and Miller

Date 1/17/77

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Program Category Affected JUSTICE

Budget Request Unit(s) Affected ADULT CONFINEMENT

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82
GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify)						

POSITIONS

	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82
FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

There would be no fiscal impact other than staff time which would necessarily be devoted to responding to study inquiries.

IV. DATE 1/21/77

PREPARED BY Island T. Dalby, Administrative Officer

AGENCY Division of Corrections

Original: Legislative Finance

PHONE 465-3375

Introduced: 1/17/77
Referred: Health, Education
& Social Services and
Judiciary

BY BRADLEY, COTTEN AND
MILLER

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting the Judicial Council to investi-
6 gate the prison system.

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

8 WHEREAS the incidence of crime in our society continues to grow even
9 though a high percentage of the criminals have served some time in jail or
10 prison on a previous offense; and

11 WHEREAS conflicting opinions exist as to what should be the major role
12 and purpose of the prison system in our state, and as to how well our prison
13 system reflects and accomplishes that purpose; and

14 WHEREAS public confidence has been shaken by the apparently high number
15 of escapes from our penal institutions and by a lack of understanding of the
16 functioning and goals of our prison system;

17 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
18 the Judicial Council to investigate prison systems and their effect upon
19 crime in society and to recommend to the Tenth State Legislature - Second
20 Session the goals to which our prison system should be directed and the
21 measures which should be undertaken to implement those goals.

22 *In Coordination with Legis Council + Dept of HESS*

23
24 *Justice Commission - Master Plan 1st phase*
25
26 *40,000*
27
28 *175,000 in CSPA available for more funding*