

SCR

18

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: April 11, 1985

FURTHER REFERRALS: FINANCE

Date of Committee Action: 4/20/89

The HEALTH, EDUCATION, & SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: SCR 18
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18
[INHALANT ABUSE]
Relating to inhalant abuse.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- [] be replaced with _____ [] the same title
- [] have attached amendment(s) [] a new title
- [X] do pass
- [] do not pass
- [] no recommendation
- [] individual recommendations
- [] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

(Date/Dept)

- [] fiscal impact _____
- [] zero fiscal note _____
- [] zero with analysis _____

- [] fiscal note(s) _____
- [X] zero fiscal note(s) 3/31/89 DHSS
- [] zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

J. Ellis
Robert J. ...
George ...
Robert ...

SIGNING:

(Check approp. column)

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend

J. Ellis
Chairman's Signature

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: Relating to inhalant abuse
Sponsor: Binkley, et.al.
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
BRU: Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services
Components: Administration

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: For *George Menden* Matthew C. Felix Phone: 586-6201
Division: Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Date: _____

Approved by Commissioner: *Morgan M. Munn* Date: 3/29/89
Agency: _____

- Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

POSITION PAPER

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

"A RESOLUTION RELATING TO INHALENT ABUSE"

The Department of Health and Social Services is in full agreement with Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 18. The University of Alaska publication entitled "Drug-Taking Behavior Among Alaskan Youth - 1988: A Follow-Up Study", provides data showing that: more Alaskan youth have tried substances (59.9%) than those who have not, and the overall prevalence of drug abuse is higher than it was in 1983. Inhalents show the largest increase in lifetime prevalence for experience since 1983, among illicit drugs.

It is generally thought that inhalent users tend to be younger than most other drug users (ages 12-17) because inhalents are inexpensive (often free since inhalents may be found in many household items), readily available, and induce an intense, altered state of consciousness. Older youth may use inhalents as a substitute for other drugs when these drugs are not available.

Across the nation, through surveys and research, it is becoming evident that lifetime prevalence of inhalent usage is increasing. National data shows an increase from 13.6 % in 1983 to 17.0 % in 1987. Student surveys may under-report prevalence, since a significant number of school dropouts are likely to be chronically inhalent involved. Sub-populations such as these may have a higher lifetime prevalence of use. A study by Beauvais, Oetting and Edwards (1985) found that by age 12 nearly one-fourth of Indian youth had used inhalents. Lifetime prevalence of inhalent use by 7th graders in Texas was 28 %.

The Office of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse is fully supportive of this resolution because:

- the overall prevalence of drug usage among Alaskan youth has been increasing over the past 5 years;
- since 1983, inhalents have had the highest increase in lifetime experience among secondary school age youth of all illicit drugs;
- persons who use inhalents tend to be younger than other users; and
- inhalents are some of the most highly toxic of all drugs and can cause irreversible brain damage or death.

Recommended by:

Matthew Felix

Matthew C. Felix, Coordinator
Office of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Date:

3/30/89

Approved by:

Myra M. Munson

Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health and Social
Services

Date:

3/29/89