

**HB**

**155**

**SFIN**

**FILE**

HB 155

was referred to the  
Senate Finance  
Committee

Hearing(s) were held

The bill did not move  
from Committee

Amendment #1  
conceptual

24-LS0614\F  
adopted 5/2/05

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 155(JUD) Sponsored by  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA Sen. Wilken  
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/3/05  
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SAMUELS, Wilson, McGuire, Hoim, LeDoux, Hawker, Harris, Anderson,  
Croft, Seaton

A BILL  
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to funding for youth courts; and relating to separately accounting for  
2 fines imposed on and collected from defendants."

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

4 \* Section 1. AS 12.55.035 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (g) Fines imposed and collected under this section shall be separately  
6 accounted for under AS 37.05.142.

7 \* Sec. 2. AS 47.12 is amended by adding a new section to article 3 to read:

8 Sec. 47.12.410. Funding for youth courts. The legislature may appropriate  
9 up to 25 percent of the fines imposed under AS 12.55.035 and collected and separately  
10 accounted for by the state under AS 37.05.142 to the department for distribution to  
11 youth courts established and operating under AS 47.12.400. Nothing in this section  
12 creates a dedicated fund.

13 \* Sec. 3. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
14 read:

1           TRANSITION. Notwithstanding the requirements of AS 12.55.035(g), enacted by  
2 sec. 1 of this Act, and AS 47.12.410, enacted by sec. 2 of this Act, that fines collected under  
3 AS 12.55.035 be accounted for separately, the Alaska Court System shall deposit money  
4 collected under AS 12.55.035 in the general fund and shall, by February 1 of each year,  
5 provide to the Department of Administration, to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee,  
6 and to each house of the legislature an estimate of the money collected under AS 12.55.035  
7 for that fiscal year.

8       \* Sec. 4. Section 3 of this Act is repealed on the date that the Alaska Court System has the  
9 capability to separately track and account electronically for money collected under  
10 AS 12.55.035. The executive director of the Alaska Court System shall notify the lieutenant  
11 governor and the revisor of statutes when the electronic capability described in this section  
12 has been obtained.



# REPRESENTATIVE RALPH SAMUELS

HOUSE DISTRICT 29

CS HB 155 (JUD)

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

*"An Act relating to funding for youth courts; and relating to separately accounting for fines imposed on and collected from defendants."*

HB 155 would create a separate accounting mechanism for fines collected by the Alaska Court system in criminal judgments and would authorize the legislature to appropriate up to 25% of those collected fines either directly to local youth courts or to the United Youth Courts of Alaska for distribution to local youth courts.

Currently youth courts operate in fourteen communities throughout Alaska: Anchorage, Delta Junction, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Kake, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Mat-Su, Nome, Sitka and Wrangell. The Anchorage Youth Court, established in 1989, is the oldest of the programs. In the first two quarters of the current fiscal year, there have been 471 youth offenders referred to these programs, and 8,833 hours of community service and \$7,502.00 in restitution ordered.

Since 1989, 4,049 cases have been referred to the Anchorage Youth Court alone. These youth offenders have completed a total of 85,576 community work service hours and paid \$68,300.00 in restitution to victims. These programs, while unique in their own ways, are working. A 2002 Urban Institute study found that only 6% of offenders going through the Anchorage Youth Court re-offend -- by far the best percentage of any court in the study.

First time offenders not held accountable for their illegal acts results in more frequent and serious juvenile crimes in the future. Youth courts provide an effective avenue to intervene early with young offenders and set them on the right track to deter them from becoming adult offenders.

HB 155 will provide a way for the legislature to annually allocate funds to support this effective, worthwhile, and cost efficient program.

Email: [Representative\\_Ralph\\_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us)

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# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/22/05

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 4/15/05

Judiciary Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 155(JUD)

## HB 155 YOUTH COURTS AND CRIMINAL FINES

"An Act relating to funding for youth courts; and relating to separately accounting for fines imposed on and collected from defendants."

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**CS Senate Bill:**  
 Same Title  
 New Title

**SCS House Bill:**  
 Same Title  
 Technical Title Change  
 New Title w/ SCR # \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
LAW	3/1			✓	1
HSS	3/14			✓	3

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	No REC	AMEND
French	X			
Gness	X			
Therriault	X			
Huggins	X			
Seelins <b>CHAIR:</b>	✓			