

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

Legislative  
Resolve No.

HCS SCR 19(HESS) am H

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Relating to alcohol and drug education programs.

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

WHEREAS residents of the state between the ages of 12 and 17 have an experimentation rate with marijuana that is twice the national average and with cocaine that is nearly three times the national average; and

WHEREAS, according to the Alaska Medicine magazine, 72 percent of Alaska's young people between the ages of 12 and 17 will use alcohol; and

WHEREAS, in the fiscal year 1989 budget, the State of Alaska appropriated nearly \$17,000,000 for alcohol and drug related programs, an amount that does not include money spent for programs that are not technically alcohol or drug related but are affected by alcohol and drug abuse in the state; and

WHEREAS the amount spent for alcohol and drug programs increases yearly and is more than \$3,000,000 above the amount spent in fiscal year 1988; and

WHEREAS alcohol and drug education is generally offered in high schools throughout the state, but since the average age at which alcohol and drug experimentation starts is 11 - 12 years of age, many young people not yet high school age have already developed problems related to chemical abuse; and

WHEREAS research has shown that a comprehensive educational program that takes into account the reality of young people's lifestyles may be the only effective prevention effort;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that each of the 55 school districts in the state

develop alcohol and drug education programs for their students in elementary school and that these programs be tailored to meet the most prevalent problems causing demonstrated harm to students of the district; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that alcohol and drug refusal skills should be made a part of each district's educational program; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct the Department of Health and Social Services, and the Department of Education, to work with local school districts by responding to requests for information and other assistance in order to develop alcohol and drug education programs for younger students.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Myra M. Munson, commissioner of health and social services; the Honorable William G. Demmert, commissioner of education; the members of the State Board of Education, and to each school board of a school district or rural educational attendance area.