

Sectional Analysis for SCS for CS for HB 172 (JUD) am Therapeutic Drug and Alcohol Courts

An Act relating to therapeutic courts for offenders; to the authorized number of superior court judges; AND AMENDING Rule 35, Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure.

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Section 1: Legislative purpose. This section states the purpose of the pilot therapeutic courts, their locations, court jurisdiction for case referrals, criteria to consider when imposing sentences, sanctions to be imposed if conditions imposed by therapeutic court are violated, conditions of bail or probation and evaluation of the pilot projects by the Alaska Judicial Council.

Section 2: Amends AS 22.10.120. Number of judges. This section adds two superior court judges. One additional judge assigned to the Third Judicial District (to be based in Anchorage) and one additional judge assigned to the Fourth Judicial District (to be based in Bethel). These judges will preside over the pilot therapeutic courts as well as other cases that they may be assigned.

Section 3: Rule 35, Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure, is amended through Section 1(h) of this bill. This allows the court to consider and reduce a criminal sentence outside of the time periods currently provided in that rule.