

HOUSE BILL NO. 138

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES WESTLAKE, Tuck, Gara

Introduced: 2/22/17

Referred: Health and Social Services, Community and Regional Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the month of March as Sobriety Awareness Month."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
4 to read:

5 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) In establishing Sobriety Awareness
6 Month, it is the intent of the legislature to call attention to Alaskans who choose a positive
7 and healthy lifestyle by not consuming mood- or mind-altering substances, and who, by virtue
8 of their freely chosen lifestyle, serve as examples that life can be lived and enjoyed without
9 the consumption of mood- or mind-altering substances.

10 (b) The legislature finds that a life without the consumption of mood- or mind-
11 altering substances

12 (1) improves the quality of life and the health of individuals, families, and
13 communities;

14 (2) reduces the incidence of alcohol- or drug-related social ills, including
15 crime, domestic violence, and child abuse and neglect;

1 (3) reduces the burden on local, state, and federal treasuries that pay for the
2 pervasive social ills caused by alcohol and drug abuse;

3 (4) assists the state in identifying health benchmarks and measuring outcomes
4 associated with that lifestyle; those benchmarks and outcomes are monitored in the Healthy
5 Alaskans 2020 Health Assessment;

6 (5) assists the state in complying with the declaration of policy under
7 AS 47.37.010.

8 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to article 2 to read:

9 **Sec. 44.12.150. Sobriety Awareness Month.** The month of March each year
10 is established as Sobriety Awareness Month. Sobriety Awareness Month may be
11 observed by schools, community groups, and other public and private agencies and
12 individuals with appropriate activities that increase the public's awareness of
13 prevention and treatment of alcoholism, drug abuse, and misuse of hazardous volatile
14 materials and substances by inhalant abusers.