

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 91

By Senators Raymond Finney, Burks

and

Representatives Fincher, Coleman, Odom, Sontany, John Deberry, Miller, Hackworth, McDonald, Shaw, Fitzhugh, Ulysses Jones, Hardaway, Ferguson, Rinks, Briley, Wilder, Pruitt, Lois DeBerry, Larry Turner, West, Vaughn, Favors, Yokley, Sherry Jones, Kernell, Litz, Bibb, Borchert, Curt Cobb, Lollar, Coley, Sargent, Moore, Hood, Brown, Bass, Pitts, Mike Turner, Harrison, Maddox, Fraley, Winningham, Harmon, Towns, Armstrong, Curtiss, Tidwell, Cooper, Buck, Shepard, Pinion, Tindell, Hawk

A RESOLUTION urging the Comptroller of the Treasury to study current alcohol and drug laws.

WHEREAS, alcohol and drug abuse have been established as major contributing factors to numerous health and social problems Tennesseans face; and

WHEREAS, recognizing and treating alcohol and drug abuse problems has changed dramatically since practices mandated by the model language of the 1971 Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act were issued; and

WHEREAS, the state needs to consistently evaluate its efforts to address a societal problem that affects the health and well-being of Tennesseans and assure development of an effective, comprehensive strategy that strengthens the current organization and delivery systems; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the members of the General Assembly hereby urge the Comptroller of the Treasury to:

(1) Initiate a comprehensive analysis of the state's existing statutes addressing prevention, treatment and recovery services of alcohol and drug abuse in order to ensure that state laws governing prevention and treatment funding and programs reflect the best practices in addressing the numerous health and social problems Tennesseans face.

(2) Review the existing statutes to ensure that state agencies have appropriate authority to coordinate services around the needs of individuals and families with problems of alcohol and drug abuse, including the issue of underage drinking.

(3) Review the law enforcement mechanisms used in Tennessee to prevent illegal access to alcohol and drugs.

(4) Review the statistics for Tennessee on sentencing for those convicted of Tennessee alcohol and drug offenses over the last two years.

(5) Identify existing statutes that may inhibit recovery and reentry into society for individuals with alcohol and drug disorders and convictions.

(6) Review sentencing laws to ensure that convicted persons receive proper treatment before and after release.

(7) Review existing statutes regulating alcohol consumption and sales to ensure the appropriate balance between the availability of alcoholic beverages with the need to protect the public's health and safety.

(8) Review the state's Uniform Accident and Sickness Policy Provision statute to determine if the statutory authorization has been or could become an impediment to identifying and referring individuals for treatment with alcohol and substance abuse problems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is instructed to complete his review and to report back to the respective leaders of the Senate and House with recommendations, if any, on suggested changes no later than December 1, 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller of the Treasury.

ADOPTED: June 11, 2007



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED: June 18, 2007



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR