

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 4-17-01

Submitted by: Assemblymember VAN ETTEN

Prepared by: Assembly Office

For reading: APRIL 17, 2001

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2001-122

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY RELATING TO SUPPORTING
LEGISLATION PROPOSED IN THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO INSTITUTE MUNICIPAL
TAXATION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND INCREASING THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE TAX
RATES

WHEREAS, alcohol is Alaska's number one social and health problem; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has the second highest consumption of alcohol in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage statistics show that alcohol played a role in 55% of all motor vehicle crash fatalities, 59% of all domestic violence cases, 55% of all sexual assaults, and 48% of all homicides; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has 4 times the national average of children born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, the only 100% preventable birth defect; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the cost associated with alcohol abuse in Alaska totaled at least \$246 million, the majority of which was borne by non-substance abusing Alaskans including those who were victims of crime and other alcohol related impacts; and

WHEREAS, these alcohol related costs were absorbed in increased public safety and criminal justice services, private health and life insurance cost, and reduced medical and property expenses; and

WHEREAS, the current alcohol excise tax has not been increased since 1983; and

WHEREAS, the current alcohol excise tax for the State collects \$12.7 million per year; and

WHEREAS, a ten cent per drink increase to the current alcohol excise tax could generate an additional \$33 million; and

WHEREAS, statistics indicate that an increase in the price of alcohol reduces drinking overall, especially among youth;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Assembly urges the Alaska State Legislature to support legislation to increase the alcohol excise tax by ten cents per drink and allow for municipal taxation of alcoholic beverages.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 17th day of April, 2001.

Fay Van Hemmingen
Chair

ATTEST:

Lejane Ferguson
Municipal Clerk