

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. *10*

BY GRUNDBERG

1 A Resolution requesting a legislative study of the  
2 impact of Arizona's proposition 200 alternative  
3 medical treatment of drug offenders program.

4 WHEREAS, while drug abuse violations have nearly  
5 doubled for all populations since 1985, drug abuse  
6 violations for persons under the age of 18 increased  
7 by 66 percent during the same period; and

8 WHEREAS, in some cities, half the murders that take  
9 place are drug-related; and

10 WHEREAS, a national study of jail inmates revealed  
11 that more than half of them were under the influence  
12 of drugs and alcohol at the time of committing their  
13 current offense; and

14 WHEREAS, between 1970 and 1994, the number of  
15 prisoners in America increased from 200,000 to over 1  
16 million and over the past generation, the likelihood  
17 that a narcotics arrestee will end up in prison has  
18 increased by over five times; and

19 WHEREAS, a recent study conducted through the  
20 Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia  
21 University found that at least 2 of the 3 million  
22 persons on parole or probation in the United States  
23 have drug or alcohol abuse addiction problems; and

24 WHEREAS, given the apparent connection between  
25 crime and substance abuse and the apparent failures in  
26 the current system to effectively stem both rising  
27 drug abuse and the prevalence of drug abuse among  
28 criminal offenders, it would seem that a different  
29  
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1 approach may be in order; and

2 WHEREAS, a major study showed that, on a dollar-  
3 for-dollar-spent basis, police and military action to  
4 seize cocaine shipments and arrest dealers, smugglers,  
5 and couriers is far less effective than spending money  
6 for treating hard-core users and abusers; and

7 WHEREAS, the state of Arizona recently adopted  
8 Proposition 200, which requires persons who commit a  
9 violent crime while under the influence of drugs to  
10 serve 100 percent of their sentence but provides  
11 probation and court-supervised treatment programs for  
12 nonviolent drug offenders; NOW THEREFORE,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
14 That the Legislative Council is requested to establish  
15 an interim study committee consisting of members of  
16 both political parties from both houses of the General  
17 Assembly to review the costs and benefits associated  
18 with implementing in Iowa's correctional system a  
19 system similar to that utilized under Arizona's  
20 Proposition 200 for substance abusers and drug law  
21 violators. The study may include but is not limited  
22 to a review of the elements of Proposition 200, the  
23 implementation of the proposition in Arizona's  
24 correctional system, a comparison of Arizona's inmate  
25 and probation and parole populations, and any  
26 documented successes or failures related to  
27 implementation of the program. The committee shall  
28 submit its findings, together with any  
29 recommendations, in a report to the General Assembly  
30 which convenes in January 1998.

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