

SENATE BILL NO. 100

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR ELTON

Introduced: 2/4/09

Referred: Judiciary, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act authorizing psychological counseling for jurors serving in criminal trials who
2 are traumatized by graphic evidence or testimony."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 12.45 is amended by adding a new section to article 1 to read:

5 **Sec. 12.45.018. Juror counseling following graphic evidence or testimony.**

6 (a) The trial judge may offer not more than 10 hours of post-trial psychological
7 counseling, without charge, to a juror or an alternate juror who serves on a trial jury in
8 a trial involving extraordinarily graphic, gruesome, or emotional evidence or
9 testimony.

10 (b) The counseling offered under (a) of this section applies only to a juror or
11 alternate juror who serves on a trial jury for a trial involving the following offenses:

- 12 (1) murder under AS 11.41.100 and 11.41.110;
13 (2) manslaughter under AS 11.41.120;
14 (3) criminally negligent homicide under AS 11.41.130;

- 1 (4) felonious assault under AS 11.41.200 - 11.41.220;
- 2 (5) a sexual offense under AS 11.41.410 - 11.41.460.
- 3 (c) The counseling offered under (a) of this section
- 4 (1) must occur not later than 180 days after the jury is dismissed;
- 5 (2) may be provided by the court system, by a state agency, or by
- 6 contract; and
- 7 (3) may be individual or group counseling.