

HOUSE RESOLUTION 216  
By Turner (Ham)

A RESOLUTION concerning alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, education and law enforcement.

WHEREAS, in 1989, the comptroller of the treasury, division of state audit, published a special report entitled, "Organizational Placement of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services"; and

WHEREAS, the special report specifically identified fourteen state agencies providing alcohol and drug abuse services or funding in the areas of prevention, treatment, education and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the special report concluded that such administrative fragmentation of effort greatly impairs the effectiveness and efficiency of limited public resources available to combat alcohol and drug abuse and related problems; and

WHEREAS, the special report recommended creation of a separate office, reporting directly to the governor, devoted entirely to development, delivery and coordination of alcohol and drug abuse services in the areas of prevention, treatment, education and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the special report also recommended creation of a statewide advisory board to review and make recommendations on the delivery of alcohol and drug abuse services throughout Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution No. 40, adopted during the 1989 session of the 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, created a special joint subcommittee of the senate and house general

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welfare committees, chaired by Senator Curtis S. Person, Jr., to study the state's delivery of alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment services; and

WHEREAS, after two years of in-depth study, the special joint subcommittee recommended creation of an interdepartmental advisory board to develop, coordinate and monitor implementation of an annual comprehensive plan for alcohol and drug abuse services covering all state-provided and/or funded treatment, prevention and law enforcement endeavors; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade, little has changed except the ever-increasing magnitude of alcohol and drug abuse and related problems:

- fragmentation of effort still reigns supreme with more agencies administering more services and grants than ever before, with little apparent effect;

- there still is no centralized office, board, council or other entity to ensure the effective and efficient use of limited public resources; and

- there still is no unified, comprehensive or coordinated plan of attack; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That this body hereby urges the governor to "declare a war on alcohol and drug abuse in Tennessee" and to take prompt, decisive and appropriate action to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of limited public resources available to combat alcohol and drug abuse and related problems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body urges the governor to establish an interagency council to review and approve all federal block grants to combat alcohol and drug abuse and related problems and to annually develop, coordinate and monitor implementation of a unified, comprehensive plan for alcohol and drug abuse services covering all state-provided and state-funded treatment, prevention, education and law enforcement endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be delivered to the governor.