

Juvenile Delinquency Costs Four Billion Dollars a Year

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Last week the U.S. House of Representatives passed and sent to the Senate the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Control Act of 1967.

Final passage came by voice vote after the adoption of an amendment transferring the responsibility for the administration of most of the funds and approval of local plans to the states.

The bill authorizes the expenditure of \$25,000,000 during this fiscal year. 75% of the money will be distributed to the states in accordance with a comprehensive statewide plan.

The state in turn will distribute most of the money to communities or nonprofit institutions to prevent, treat and control juvenile delinquency.

In Alaska, the Youth and Adult Authority of the Alaska Department of Health and

Welfare would be the likely agency to develop and administer the statewide plan.

Rapidly increasing rates of crime among American youth is the single most disturbing aspect of the Nation's crime problem. The cost to the Nation of such crime is estimated to be \$4 billion annually. Such monetary figures, of course, do not include the larger tragedy of wrecked human lives.

This bill passed by the House is a small step towards helping the states grope with this serious problem.