CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35(L&C) am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Amended: 4/30/96
Offered: 4/26/96

Sponsor(s): HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to support for the Alaska Community College system within the
2 University of Alaska.
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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
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WHEREAS, in 1962, the legislature created the Community College Act under
5 AS 14.40.560 - 14.40.640; and
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WHEREAS the legislature supported and endorsed the creation of community colleges
7 throughout the State of Alaska to promote vocational, academic, developmental, and
8 community education programs and courses of instruction to meet community and state needs; and
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WHEREAS the legislature supported the University of Alaska in its 1987
10 consolidation of Alaska's 12 accredited community colleges on condition that the Board of
11 Regents would "... preserve and maintain the community college mission, budget and
12 identity"; and
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WHEREAS the legislature and the Board of Regents have been provided University
14 of Alaska reports documenting the significant and continuing decline in "the community
15 college" students attending the University of Alaska since the 1987 consolidation; and

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WHEREAS the legislature and the Board of Regents have been provided University of Alaska reports showing that community college student tuition has increased significantly since the 1987 consolidation, which has had an adverse effect on participation and access to higher education for rural, vocational education, continuing adult education, and nontraditional student enrollment; and

WHEREAS the legislature is aware that the overall long-range cost savings anticipated in the 1987 consolidation have not occurred and the community college mission and programs have been diminished; and

WHEREAS the legislature, Governor, and University of Alaska's Board of Regents have recognized the importance of developing lifelong learning skills, work training programs, and occupational retraining; and

WHEREAS the faculty, represented by the Alaska Community Colleges' Federation of Teachers, is responsible for the delivery of community college programs of education, supports maintaining the community college mission, budget, and identity, and encourages a legislative initiative to address this need;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is urged to request the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education to establish a Community College Committee for the purpose of evaluating whether to restore a statewide comprehensive community college system within the University of Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan with proposed legislation for implementation be completed and submitted to the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature at least two months before the opening of the First Session of the Twentieth Alaska State Legislature.