

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/3/14

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Recognizing, honoring, supporting, and encouraging support for dog mushing and dog**
2 **mushers in the state.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** dog mushing is the official sport of the state, and both Native and non-
5 Native persons participate in the sport; and

6 **WHEREAS** persons who engage in dog mushing help to preserve the culture and
7 tradition of dog mushing, which has been practiced in the state for thousands of years; and

8 **WHEREAS** dog mushing is an important thread in the fabric of life in this state and is
9 an important part of the spiritual well-being and cultural identity of the state; and

10 **WHEREAS** dog mushing is not only a sport but also a way of life, with roots in
11 ancient times when humans first bonded with animals; and

12 **WHEREAS**, before mechanized means of transportation arrived in the state, the
13 relationship between humans and animals enabled residents of the state to populate the state
14 and to live, hunt, and thrive in the state; and

15 **WHEREAS** organizations such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals want
16 to eliminate the sport of dog mushing and the dog mushing way of life and have asked people

1 not to patronize companies that sponsor dog mushing or tours that include dog mushing; and

2 **WHEREAS** dog mushing races attract millions of fans and tourists from around the
3 world and contribute to the economies of the state and communities in the state; and

4 **WHEREAS** dog mushing contributes to the state's image as the last frontier and
5 provides excitement and purpose locally; and

6 **WHEREAS** dog mushing, whether in races or for recreation, contributes to the pride,
7 spirit, physical well-being, and cultural identity of fans and dog mushers alike; and

8 **WHEREAS** dog mushers who treat their dogs humanely and maintain humane dog
9 kennels need the support of the people of the state so they can preserve the tradition and
10 culture of dog mushing for future generations;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes this state as a "right
12 to mush" state and recognizes the practice of dog mushing to be a part of the past, present, and
13 future culture of the state; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature honors the grit and
15 tenacity of dog mushers who brave miles of open wild country in harsh weather conditions;
16 and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports dog mushing in
18 the state and encourages the people of the state to support dog mushers so they can preserve
19 the tradition and culture of dog mushing for future generations.