

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 2/26/14

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the purchase of Alaska for \$7,200,000; urging**
2 **Alaska communities to plan activities and events in 2017 to commemorate the Alaska**
3 **Purchase; requesting that the Alaska Historical Commission coordinate events; and**
4 **inviting Alaska communities, schools, universities, libraries, museums, businesses, civic**
5 **and historical groups, and government agencies to participate in and support**
6 **commemorative activities and events.**

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

8 **WHEREAS** Alaskans traditionally commemorate and celebrate the Alaska Purchase
9 with two official state holidays, Seward's Day on the last Monday in March and Alaska Day
10 on October 18; and

11 **WHEREAS** 2017 will be the sesquicentennial of the 1867 Treaty of Purchase, which
12 transferred from Russia to the United States the land that today is the State of Alaska; and

13 **WHEREAS** the anniversary is an opportunity for communities and individuals around
14 the state to plan commemorative activities; and

1 **WHEREAS** the anniversary is an opportunity to recognize the Alaska Purchase, once
2 decried as "Seward's Folly," with educational activities and commemorative events regarding
3 the history of Alaska under the American flag; and

4 **WHEREAS** the anniversary is an opportunity to enhance efforts to preserve
5 significant historical sites, papers, and artifacts and to recognize the leaders who made the
6 Alaska Purchase possible; and

7 **WHEREAS** the anniversary provides a platform for a national discussion on Alaska's
8 value to the nation, including the state's strategic importance in the defense of the nation, the
9 importance of the state's resources, the state's importance to national and economic security
10 interests, and the importance of the state's geographic location in the Arctic and strategic
11 location in the North Pacific; and

12 **WHEREAS** the anniversary presents an opportunity to learn about the history of the
13 state's Native people, before and after the Alaska Purchase, and to recognize that an
14 understanding of the culture and heritage of the state's Native people is essential to an
15 understanding of the state; and

16 **WHEREAS** a celebration to commemorate the anniversary provides an opportunity to
17 review and encourage comprehensive research on the state's history;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the sesquicentennial
19 of the Alaska Purchase and encourages all communities in the state to plan activities and
20 events and engage in discussions to commemorate the anniversary; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Alaska State Legislature appreciates the leadership of
22 the Alaska Historical Commission in coordinating events and seeking opportunities to bring
23 new research to the attention of all Alaskans; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature invites Alaska
25 communities, schools, universities, libraries, museums, businesses, civic and historical
26 groups, and government agencies to participate in and support activities and events to
27 commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase.