

**CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5(EDA) am**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, AND ARCTIC POLICY**

**Amended: 3/23/15**

**Offered: 3/11/15**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES HERRON, GUTTENBERG, TUCK, JOSEPHSON, KAWASAKI**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Declaring 2015, 2016, and 2017 to be the Years of the Arctic; encouraging the state and**  
2 **its partners to join with the Institute of the North in encouraging the state to promote its**  
3 **Arctic policy during the Years of the Arctic and to take action to address the strategic**  
4 **recommendations in the Implementation Plan of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** residents of the state are at the forefront of emerging economic and  
7 resource development opportunities, vibrant healthy communities, and circumpolar  
8 cooperation; and

9 **WHEREAS** the vision of the state for the Arctic is based on economic resource  
10 development, a healthy environment, secure and safe communities, and transparent decision  
11 making; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Arctic is an integral part of the identity of the state, home to many  
13 residents of the state, and an important part of the history, culture, and prosperity of the state;  
14 and

15 **WHEREAS** the Arctic is a significant geopolitical feature of the nation; and

1           **WHEREAS** the Arctic is becoming increasingly accessible, presenting a multitude of  
2 opportunities that should be realized; and

3           **WHEREAS** the Implementation Plan, released by the Alaska Arctic Policy  
4 Commission, highlights the critical importance of the Arctic to the future of the state; and

5           **WHEREAS** there is a need to strengthen international collaboration, promote  
6 economic and resource development, and continue to cultivate healthy communities and a  
7 healthy environment in the Arctic; and

8           **WHEREAS** the United States will chair the Arctic Council from April 2015 to  
9 May 2017; and

10          **WHEREAS** the state should anticipate increased national and international attention  
11 during this period; and

12          **WHEREAS** nothing in this resolution supports, endorses, or opposes the  
13 reestablishment of the Alaska coastal zone management program that expired in 2011 and was  
14 rejected by the state voters in 2012; and

15          **WHEREAS** nothing in this resolution supports, endorses, or opposes the United  
16 Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

17          **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature declares 2015, 2016, and 2017  
18 to be the Years of the Arctic, a period during which the state should make every effort to  
19 highlight the importance of the Arctic to residents of the state and nation; and be it

20          **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the state and  
21 its partners to join with the Institute of the North in encouraging the state to promote its Arctic  
22 policy and broadening awareness of Arctic issues; and be it

23          **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the state to  
24 take action during the Years of the Arctic to address the strategic recommendations in the  
25 Implementation Plan of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission.