

SENATE CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/5/98

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES BUNDE, Brice, Berkowitz, Dyson, Croft, Rokeberg, James, Ryan, Kemplen

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Council.

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 WHEREAS Alaska has a long-standing commitment to serving its disabled citizens,
4 including the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind; and

5 WHEREAS, based on national average rates, Alaska's population probably includes
6 approximately 60,000 people who have hearing loss ranging from mild to severe; and

7 WHEREAS Alaska lifestyles include many activities that can cause hearing
8 impairment, including travel by air and operation of four-wheelers, chain saws, snow
9 machines, and other equipment; and

10 WHEREAS, although the hearing impaired represent the largest disability group in the
11 United States, they are one of the most misunderstood and least served disability groups; and

12 WHEREAS the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind require many types of services,
13 including rehabilitation, education, deaf interpretation, independent living, correctional, and
14 mental health services; and

15 WHEREAS many deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind Alaskans experience drug and
16 alcohol problems and live in communities with limited or no access to appropriate services;
17 and

1 **WHEREAS** the several agencies, offices, and councils that provide services to the
2 deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind often develop policies and programs without adequate
3 input from professional providers of these services or their consumers; and

4 **WHEREAS** coordination of services for this disability group could result in more
5 efficient and effective service delivery; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Council (ADC) has been
7 operating unofficially for several years as a referral center and clearinghouse of information
8 for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind; and

9 **WHEREAS** several agencies that provide services to Alaska's deaf, hard of hearing,
10 and deafblind residents have expressed willingness to expand their financial support of the
11 ADC in order to extend its effectiveness; and

12 **WHEREAS** the ADC has obtained a business license and certification as a nonprofit
13 organization under sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code; and

14 **WHEREAS** additional visibility in the community of the deaf, hard of hearing, and
15 deafblind, and the providers of professional services to these consumers, would help the ADC
16 attract additional funding through grants, private fund raising, and donations; and

17 **WHEREAS** operation of the ADC does not require, nor is expected to require, funding
18 from state government;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the Alaska Deaf,
20 Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Council (ADC) as a statewide information clearinghouse and
21 services referral center for issues affecting the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that private citizens, state agencies, schools, social service
23 providers, private foundations, and all other parties who deal with the deaf, hard of hearing,
24 and deafblind are encouraged to support the ADC and to use its services whenever
25 appropriate.

26 **A COPY** of this resolution shall be sent to the Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and
27 Deafblind Council, 731 Gambell, Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501-3754.