

HOUSE CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/30/97

Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): SENATORS PEARCE, Ellis

REPRESENTATIVES Kemplen, James

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the Alaska Telemedicine Project.

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

3 WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project, founded by the University of Alaska,
4 Anchorage, Providence Health Systems in Alaska, and AT&T Alascom, is a private/public
5 consortium of over 34 telecommunications carriers and health care organizations, including
6 Native health corporations, dedicated to using telecommunications and information technology
7 to improve the delivery of health care to all Alaskans; and

8 WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project is beginning its fourth year of operations;
9 and

10 WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project has predicated its existence on the idea
11 that "our" health care dollars must be used wisely, and that advances in telecommunications
12 and information technology offer the promise of health care system re-engineering that can
13 both contain costs of health care and improve the quality of health care for all Alaskans; and

14 WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project has performed planning for narrow
15 bandwidth telemedicine and telehealth applications that has been predicated on current and
16 planned end user telecommunications and information technology systems in Alaska; and

17 WHEREAS the Alaska Telemedicine Project has been dedicated to assessing the needs

1 of all health care organizations in the state, demonstrating appropriate telemedicine and
2 telehealth technologies and applications scaled to Alaska's current and planned infrastructure,
3 and evaluating these demonstration projects for cost and benefit, satisfaction, and use; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project has developed an evaluation method,
5 sanctioned by the National Library of Medicine, designed to reveal cost and benefits,
6 satisfaction, and use of telemedicine and telehealth applications and technologies scaled to
7 Alaska's current and planned telecommunications and information technology infrastructure;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project has established a nonprofit Alaska
10 TeleHealth Network for e-mail, digital imagery, and continuing medical and health care
11 information and education throughout the state; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project has been recognized by the government
13 of Romania, the National Library of Medicine, and the United States Department of
14 Commerce as a model for telemedicine and telehealth applications and technologies in rural
15 America and developing nations; and

16 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project has performed all these accomplishments
17 without new, dedicated funding from the state; and

18 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project will not preclude other entities within
19 the state from applying for funding for technology, but support them in their efforts to develop
20 partnerships to secure funding and expertise in the telemedicine field;

21 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Twentieth Alaska State Legislature recognizes the Alaska
22 Telemedicine Project, its founding organizations, and commends its leadership for advancing
23 telemedicine and telehealth in the State of Alaska.