

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS ELTON, Halford

REPRESENTATIVES Hudson , Kerttula, Harris

Introduced: 4/11/01

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to an Alaska National Guard Armory in Juneau.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the Alaska National Guard has maintained armories across the state of
4 Alaska since 1959; and

5 **WHEREAS** the Alaska National Guard protects the people and infrastructure of our
6 state, with 84 armories and readiness centers that provide rapid access to all areas of the state;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS** the steep mountains, deep waters, open oceans, and inland channels of
9 the southeast area of Alaska create a challenging environment for emergency management,
10 making it essential that emergency workers understand the climate, culture, and coordinates
11 of the area; and

12 **WHEREAS** the persons serving in the Alaska National Guard in the southeast area of
13 Alaska are neighbors, coworkers, and friends who dedicate many hours of their busy lives to
14 perfecting their military and emergency readiness skills; and

15 **WHEREAS** Juneau was the first Alaska city to have a National Guard unit, and the
16 Alaska National Guard's main armory in the southeast area of Alaska has been located in

1 Juneau since the current armory was constructed in 1960; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Alaska National Guard armory in Juneau provides the only battalion
3 headquarters for all of the southeast area of Alaska; and

4 **WHEREAS** having a Juneau armory greatly improves the Alaska National Guard's
5 ability to recruit and retain personnel in the state's third largest and capital city; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Alaska National Guard armory in Juneau is now located on property
7 owned by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and the City and Borough of Juneau and
8 the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority have worked together to provide a new site for a
9 National Guard readiness center; and

10 **WHEREAS** the National Guard is also considering constructing a joint facility with
11 the University of Alaska Southeast, and the facility would improve the capacity of both the
12 Alaska National Guard and the University of Alaska Southeast to fulfill their missions in a
13 manner that is cost-efficient for both;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports building a new Alaska
15 National Guard Armory in Juneau and calls on the National Guard Bureau to make the project
16 a high priority; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls on the United States
18 Congress to make appropriations to fund a new armory in Juneau, in keeping with the national
19 interest.

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, United
21 States Secretary of Defense; General Eric K. Shinseki, U.S. Army Chief of Staff; Lieutenant
22 General Russell C. Davis, Chief, National Guard Bureau; Major General Roger C. Schultz,
23 Director, Army National Guard; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
24 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
25 the Alaska delegation in Congress.