

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE HALL

Introduced: 2/23/26

Referred: Labor and Commerce

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to recognize public safety telecommunicators as first**
2 **responders; and urging the United States Congress to pass the Enhancing First**
3 **Response Act.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** public safety telecommunicators, also known as emergency
6 telecommunicators or emergency medical dispatchers, are the "first" first responders,
7 providing the first communication of the first responders system; and

8 **WHEREAS**, operating as a lifeline to law enforcement, firefighters, and medical
9 responders in the field, public safety telecommunicators carry out critical life-saving work as
10 part of the first responder system; and

11 **WHEREAS** public safety telecommunicators receive training and specific emergency
12 medical knowledge essential for the efficient management of emergency medical
13 communications that save lives; and

14 **WHEREAS** public safety telecommunicators often communicate with people in great
15 distress, harm, fear, or injury, while employing experience and training to recognize a critical

1 piece of information; and

2 **WHEREAS** the service, timeliness, and performance of public safety
3 telecommunicators can have a profound effect on the outcome of a call and can be the
4 difference between life and death; and

5 **WHEREAS** public safety telecommunicators may endure psychological effects,
6 which, compounded with limited or no avenue for closure post-incident, may lead to the
7 development of post-traumatic stress disorder for public safety telecommunicators; and

8 **WHEREAS** adequate public safety cannot be achieved without public safety
9 telecommunicators; and

10 **WHEREAS** the federal Office of Management and Budget currently classifies public
11 safety telecommunicators as clerical workers in the Standard Occupational Classification
12 system; and

13 **WHEREAS** reclassifying public safety telecommunicators as a protective service
14 occupation, the same classification as other first responders, such as law enforcement and
15 firefighters, affirms the importance of public safety telecommunicators to the broader
16 emergency response system; and

17 **WHEREAS** the clerical worker classification inhibits public safety
18 telecommunicators' access to the same benefits to which other first responders have access;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS** reclassifying public safety telecommunicators as a protective service
21 occupation is critical to improving recruitment and retaining dispatchers in the state;

22 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature applauds the United States
23 Senate's passing the Enhancing First Response Act (S.725), which reclassifies public safety
24 telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational
25 Classification system; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the
27 United States House of Representatives to swiftly pass the Enhancing First Response Act
28 (S.725) or a similar bill.

29 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
30 of the United States; the Honorable JD Vance, Vice President of the United States and
31 President of the U.S. Senate; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan

- 1 Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S. Representative, members of
- 2 the Alaska delegation in Congress.