

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10(L&C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/12/17

Referred: State Affairs

Sponsor(s): SENATORS COSTELLO, Hughes, Begich

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming 2018 to be the Year of Innovation in Alaska.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** growing Alaska's economy is imperative to improving the lives of
4 Alaskans; and

5 **WHEREAS** ingenuity and innovation support a dynamic economy and can help
6 diversify Alaska's economic base; and

7 **WHEREAS** innovation is a new product or process that creates value and drives
8 growth; while innovation is not limited to technology, innovative technology has transformed
9 industries like health care, transportation, and education; and

10 **WHEREAS** entrepreneurship is key to commercializing innovations; researchers have
11 found a link between technological innovation and economic development; and cutting-edge
12 technology lies at the heart of economic leadership; and

13 **WHEREAS** entrepreneurs entering the state's market spur economic growth, and
14 diversifying Alaska's economy through innovation can help address Alaska's fiscal
15 challenges; and

16 **WHEREAS** Alaskans are innovators by necessity, with Native peoples, pioneers,

1 explorers, miners, fishermen, builders, soldiers, scientists, loggers, engineers, teachers, law
2 enforcement personnel, oil field workers, entrepreneurs, students, artists, and all hard-working
3 Alaskans responding to the state's geography and climate with forward-thinking solutions;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS** the National Bureau of Economic Research reports that nearly all new
6 job creation annually comes from startups; without new businesses, job creation in the United
7 States would have been negative over the last 30 years, with firms in their first year
8 responsible for creating an average of 3,000,000 jobs a year; and

9 **WHEREAS** data-driven innovation is a key pillar of 21st century growth, through
10 significantly enhanced productivity, economic competitiveness, and social well-being; and

11 **WHEREAS** innovation must be culturally and publicly encouraged, and Alaska
12 should pursue policies that foster creativity and new ideas that create an environment where
13 entrepreneurs can thrive and thereby improve and strengthen the economy of the state; and

14 **WHEREAS** best practices for innovation incorporate principles that speed up
15 economic development and reduce the risks of traditional business planning approaches; and

16 **WHEREAS** a Year of Innovation "pipeline" has been established through
17 collaboration between regional and statewide economic development organizations,
18 universities, investors, business support professionals, and entrepreneurs across the state,
19 through the use of collaborative work spaces, and through aligning events, such as the Arctic
20 Innovation Competition, the Innovation Summit, Alaska Startup Week, and the Launch:
21 Alaska accelerator program; and

22 **WHEREAS** collaborative efforts, such as Innovate Alaska 2.0, can diversify the
23 state's economic base by creating an entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem, by
24 empowering import and export businesses, and by engaging the next generation of Alaska
25 entrepreneurs, ensuring that Alaskans' great ideas have a clear pathway to market success; and

26 **WHEREAS** university research contributes to the development of intellectual
27 property, interdisciplinary entrepreneurial programming and education, and effective
28 technology transfer and is a vital component of an effective innovation ecosystem; and

29 **WHEREAS** a strong innovation ecosystem depends on the sponsorship and
30 promotion of innovations by existing companies as well as the development of new industries
31 by new strategic ventures; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Juneau Economic Development Council hosts an annual innovation
2 summit that brings together innovators in the state who move Alaska forward by maintaining,
3 expanding, and creating jobs and economic opportunities; in addition, the innovation summit
4 provides a platform for inductees to the Alaska Innovators Hall of Fame to share exemplary
5 efforts to grow a culture of innovation in the state; and

6 **WHEREAS** 20 percent of innovations come from collaborations between multiple
7 institutions, half of which are public-private partnerships between private companies and
8 universities or government research labs;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims 2018 as the Year of
10 Innovation in Alaska.