

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR JOE THOMAS

## **SJR 10 - Urging the United States Congress to adopt S. 371, the Respecting States Rights and Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2009**

### **Sponsor Statement**

The right to keep and bear arms is one of the rights most cherished by Alaskans. Our history and culture is tightly bound to our outdoor and sporting heritage. Residents of Alaska and Vermont enjoy some of the greatest freedoms in the country with regards to concealed carry. Senate Joint Resolution 10 supports federal legislation that recognizes and protects our unique situation.

The Respecting States Rights and Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act was introduced by U.S. Senators David Vitter (LA) and John Thune (SD). A House companion bill, H.R. 197, has been introduced by Representatives Cliff Stearns' (R-Fla.) and Rick Boucher (D-Va.) The bill would allow those American citizens who are licensed or otherwise authorized by their state government to carry a concealed firearm to lawfully carry concealed firearms in other states, in accordance with local laws. Provisions in the law ensure that residents of states like Alaska and Vermont, which have unique concealed carry laws, are not prohibited from enjoying the same rights as those residents from states with more common "conceal and carry" laws.

This piece of federal legislation respects state laws by requiring carriers of concealed firearms to follow all applicable state statutes governing concealed firearms. Currently, many states offer reciprocity agreements to other states with similar concealed carry laws. However, these agreements can change or lapse. For instance, North Dakota recently phased out the training requirement from the concealed carry-licensing process. This resulted in the lapse of several reciprocity agreements between North Dakota and other states. Such shifting agreements can make it difficult for a bearer of a concealed firearm to keep track of which states offer reciprocity.

Federal passage of the Respecting States Rights and Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act would establish a nationwide reciprocity agreement, and place the duty to comply with local and state concealed carry laws squarely on the shoulders of the citizen. Individuals must follow the laws of the host state, including laws concerning specific locations where firearms may not be carried. Additionally, any individual prohibited by federal law from carrying a firearm will continue to be prohibited under the bill.

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY SENATORS THOMAS, Dyson, Therriault, Wagoner, Huggins, McGuire, Stedman, Paskvan,  
Wielechowski, Menard, Stevens, Meyer**

**REPRESENTATIVES Stoltze, Lynn Keller, Neuman**

**Introduced: 2/27/09**

**Referred: Judiciary**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress to adopt S. 371, the Respecting States Rights and**  
2 **Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2009.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution enunciates a  
5 citizen's right to keep and bear arms, stating that this right shall not be infringed; and

6 **WHEREAS** the right to keep and bear arms is one of the most cherished rights of all  
7 Americans, and Alaskans in particular; and

8 **WHEREAS** S. 371 has been introduced in the United States Senate to secure the right  
9 of individuals to lawfully carry concealed firearms across state lines; and

10 **WHEREAS** S. 371, referred to as the Respecting States Rights and Concealed Carry  
11 Reciprocity Act of 2009, would allow an individual to lawfully carry a concealed firearm  
12 across state lines if the individual has a valid permit or if, under the laws of the individual's  
13 state of residence, the individual is allowed to do so; and

14 **WHEREAS** S. 371 would establish a reciprocity agreement allowing Alaskans who  
15 may legally carry a concealed weapon in Alaska to do so in other states with concealed carry  
16 laws; and

1       **WHEREAS** Alaskans enjoy some of the greatest freedoms of any residents of the  
2 United States with regards to the Second Amendment;

3       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the Respecting States  
4 Rights and Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2009, and urges the United States Congress to  
5 adopt S. 371, and further urges the members of the Alaska Congressional delegation to  
6 support and pass S. 371.

7       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-  
8 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid,  
9 Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the  
10 U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the  
11 Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and the  
12 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the  
13 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: SJR 10  
 (S) Publish Date: 3/18/09

Identifier (file name): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: None  
 Title Adopt S. 371 in Congress RDU \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor Senator Thomas Component \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requester Senate Judiciary Committee Component Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>							
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>							
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Senate Judiciary Committee Phone 465-3892  
 Division: Legislative Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved by: Senate Judiciary Chairman Senator Hollis French Date 3/16/2009