

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

Introduced: 3/12/12

Referred: Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing the Alaska Legislative Celebration Commission to organize events to**
2 **commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first convening of the legislative branch of**
3 **government in Alaska.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the United States of America acquired the Alaska territory from Russia
6 by the Treaty of Cession of March 30, 1867, for \$7,200,000; and

7 **WHEREAS** local government was not officially instituted in the Alaska territory until
8 1884, when the United States Congress passed the Organic Act, "An act providing for a civil
9 government for Alaska"; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Organic Act redesignated Alaska as an incorporated but unorganized
11 territory renamed the District of Alaska and provided for a governor, a district court of
12 general jurisdiction, a district judge, and court officials, all appointed by the President of the
13 United States; and

14 **WHEREAS**, from 1884 to 1912, several efforts that were made to petition the United
15 States Congress for the institution of more representative government in the District of Alaska

1 and, specifically, for an elected legislative body, failed or were largely ignored; and

2 **WHEREAS**, following substantial grassroots efforts and the promotional work of
3 James Wickersham, the United States Congress approved the Second Organic Act on
4 August 24, 1912, making Alaska a territory of the United States and providing for an elected
5 legislative body vested with very limited powers; and

6 **WHEREAS**, following local elections in November 1912, the first legislative body of
7 the Territory of Alaska, consisting of eight senators and 16 representatives, was convened on
8 March 3, 1913, in Juneau, Alaska; and

9 **WHEREAS** March 3, 2013, will mark the 100th anniversary of the first convening of
10 Alaska's legislative branch of government; and

11 **WHEREAS** it is fitting that the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first
12 convening of Alaska's legislative branch be commensurate with Alaska's magnificent heritage
13 and celebrate the opportunities that 100 years of representative government have brought to
14 the state and its people; and

15 **WHEREAS** the organization of a statewide celebration to commemorate the occasion
16 properly will require advance research, planning, and other preparation;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State legislature establishes the Alaska
18 Legislative Celebration Commission, which may meet during the interim between legislative
19 sessions, to research, plan, and prepare for the 100th anniversary of the first convening of the
20 legislative branch of government in Alaska; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall consist of two members from the
22 house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, two
23 members from the senate appointed by the president of the senate, and three public members
24 appointed jointly by the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
25 senate; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that if a member of the commission resigns or is otherwise
27 unable to perform the duties of a member of the commission or if a legislative member of the
28 commission is no longer a member of the legislative body from which the member was
29 appointed, the officer responsible for appointing the member shall appoint a replacement
30 member as soon as is practicable; and be it

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a majority of the members of the commission

1 constitutes a quorum; the commission may approve measures, make recommendations, and
2 take other action based on a vote of a majority of the quorum that is present; the members
3 shall elect from among the membership a chair and other officers as may be required to fulfill
4 the duties of the commission; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that members of the commission serve without
6 compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and
7 commissions in statute; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the staff of the legislative members of the commission
9 and staff of the Legislative Affairs Agency shall serve as staff for the commission; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall plan and administer activities
11 leading up to and relating to the official commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the first
12 convening of the legislative branch of government in Alaska; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission may engage in joint projects with
14 municipalities, civic organizations, and other entities to help identify ways to commemorate
15 and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first convening of the legislative branch, and that
16 the commission shall be dissolved not later than March 3, 2014.