

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE GUTTENBERG

Introduced:

Referred:

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming July 2015 to be Alaska Peony Month.**

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

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2001, researchers at the University of Alaska Fairbanks began to
4 study peony cultivation in the Interior region of the state; and

5 **WHEREAS** this state is the only region to harvest peonies during July, August, and
6 September; and

7 **WHEREAS** peony roots were first planted for commercial production in 2004 with
8 small test plots located in Fairbanks, Kenai, and Homer; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in the last 11 years, the state has seen remarkable growth in the peony
10 industry, with over 100,000 roots planted by at least 51 commercial growers statewide; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in 2011, nine peony growers successfully marketed 16,000 fresh cut
12 peony stems to florists, flower brokers, farmer's markets, brides, and regional distributors all
13 over the contiguous United States; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, test shipments went to Taiwan, and several growers combined
15 to make weekly shipments to Hawaii; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in 2013, 75,264 stems were harvested, and 59,949 of those stems were

1 successfully brought to market; and

2 **WHEREAS** the projected harvest over the next five years is expected to be over
3 1,000,000 harvestable stems a year, which can be sold for an average price of \$3 for each
4 stem; and

5 **WHEREAS** the production value of a peony farm is \$50,000 - \$100,000 an acre,
6 assuming that 2,500 - 5,000 plants are grown on each acre, that each plant produces 10 stems,
7 and that each stem sells for \$2 - \$4; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature celebrates, through formal commemoration,
9 the accomplishments of the state's peony entrepreneurs and recognizes the peony as a symbol
10 of hard work and determination;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims July 2015 to be
12 Alaska Peony Month to increase awareness of Alaska's blooming peony industry, to
13 commemorate the achievements of those who work in the state's peony industry, and to afford
14 an opportunity for people to recognize the accomplishments of the peony industry with
15 appropriate ceremonies and activities.